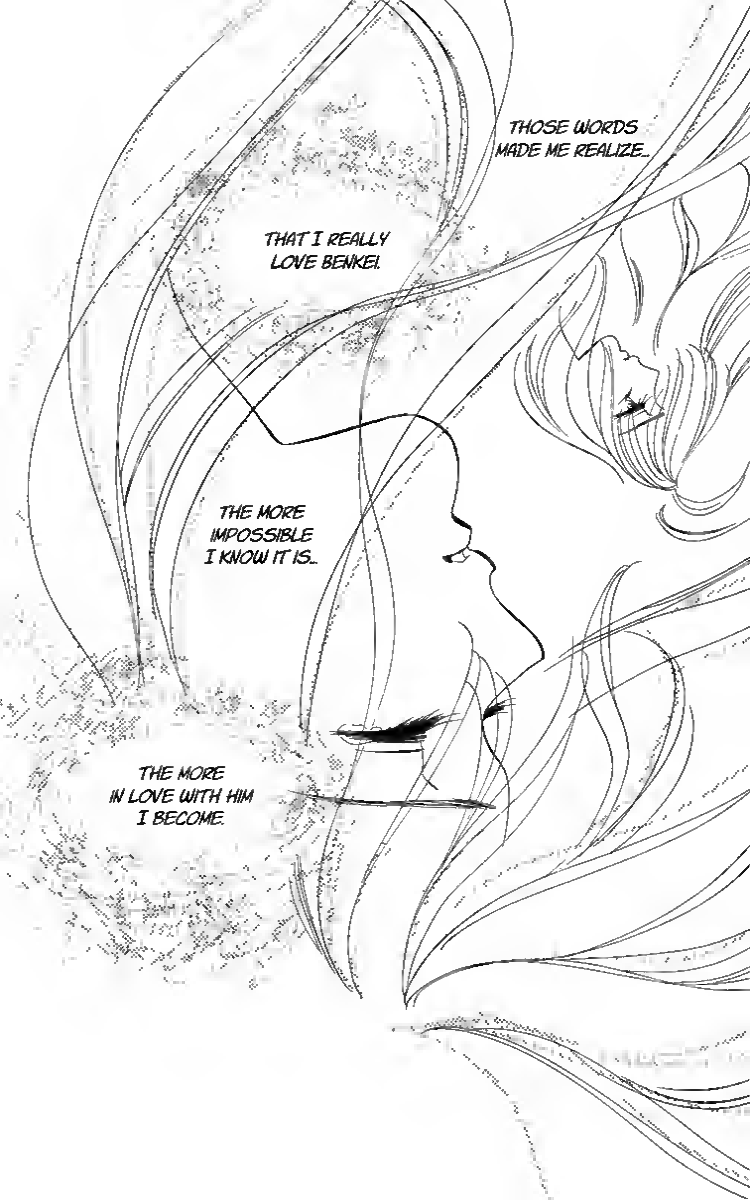
I took a vow that I would never love anyone in this world!
リョウ
Ryo
5
No.28
UEDA Rinko


THOSE WORDS MADE ME REALIZE...
THAT I REALLY LOVE BENKEI.
THE MORE IMPOSSIBLE I KNOW IT IS...
THE MORE IN LOVE WITH HIM I BECOME.

Chu
Chu
Chu
Chu
CLANG
BENKEI?
Gulp
RYO!
WHO?

IT'S ME,
RYO!
KORE-MORI...
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
MY SERVANT DISCOVERED IT.
THEN YOU ARE...?
NO.
GRAB
PLEASE DON'T RUN AWAY.
IT'S JUST ME.

I JUST...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
KOREMORI...
YOU STILL...
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU.
THE MEMORIES OF THE TIME I SPENT WITH YOU IN HIRAIZUMI—
OVER AND OVER...
UNTIL IT'S ALMOST PAINFUL.

PLEASE MARRY ME.
BUT I—
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT—

IF YOU DON'T COME BACK WITH ME,
I WILL HAVE TO ATTACK HIRAIZUMI.
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY?
THE FUJIWARAS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE NEUTRAL, BUT THEY HID YOU.
THAT MEANS THEY HAVE SIDED AGAINST THE HEISHI
STOP!
THAT'S... SO CRUEL.
I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE A WAR, EITHER

BECOME MY WIFE.
SO PLEASE...
RYO.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT HIRAIZUMI.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

KOREMORI...
IT HURTS.
WHAT'S THIS STUFF ON THE GROUND?
IS SOMEONE HERE?
Dash
IF YOU DON'T HATE ME, PLEASE COME TO ROKUHARA.
PLEASE,
RYO!
Run
WHO?
RYO-SAMA!
Run
Run

KOREMORI WAS HERE?
AND RYO-DONO?
SHE'S FINE.
SHEEGH...
YOU STAYED AWAY FOR A LONG TIME.
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HER?
Step
Step
BENKEI.
GOOD. YOU'RE BACK.
RYO-DONO.
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
YOU'D BETTER GET CHANGED, TOO, BENKEI.
HUH?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SAI
KOREMORI IS GOING TO ATTACK HIRAIZUMI...

...UNLESS I MARRY HIM.
HE'S GOING TO SEND AN ARMY TO HIRAIZUMI.
GOING THROUGH TOKAIDO WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS.
GO TO KUMANO...
AND THEN TRAVEL NORTH BY WATER.
KUMANO?
TAKE RYO-SAMA TO KUMANO, BENKEI.
SNIFF...

ISN'T THAT YOUR HOMETOWN?
BUT I CAN'T GO TO KUMANO.
IF YOU PRETEND TO BE A PRIEST AND APPRENTICE, YOU WON'T AROUSE SUSPICION.
BENKEI?
YES. AND WE STILL HAVE FAMILY LIVING THERE.
THEY WILL HELP YOU.
I'M NOT GOING TO KUMANO!
ANOTHER WAY?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY.

Translation ^_^Tonpapa
Scans MiaHoneyDa
Editing Ink
Proofreading Conner

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et-caetera.net

I JUST SAW TOKIWA-GOZEN HERE.
SO YOU'RE ALL GROWN-UP NOW KOREMORI-DONO?
T-
TOKIWA-GOZEN?
WHY... IS SHE HERE?
SHE IS THE BAIT TO CAPTURE YOSHITSUNE.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT!
I DID IT BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT YOU, KOREMORI-SAMA.

Slap
KAISON.
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.
IF HER MIND COULD BE CHANGED JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE,
WE WOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS MUCH TROUBLE.
I DON'T WANT TO USE HER MOTHER AS A HOSTAGE.
I WANT...
YOSHITSUNE TO COME TO ME BECAUSE OF MY LOVE.

AH...
WHERE'S BENKEI?
I WILL LOOK FOR HIM.
YOU SHOULD GET PACKED.
UM... YES.
BENKEI REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO KUMANO
Shut
WHY? IT'S HIS HOMETOWN
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
FATHER WON'T ALLOW ME TO ENTER KUMANO,
ESPECIALLY WITH AN HEIR OF THE GENJI. HE WON'T LIKE THAT.
...
WELL?
HAVE YOU COME UP WITH A BETTER IDEA?
THEN TELL HIM SHE'S YOUR WIFE.
ANEUE!

I HEARD YOU AND RYO-SAMA ARGUING THIS MORNING.
!!
RYO-SAMA IS SINCERE.
SHE CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SEE YOU.
WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT HER WITH OPEN ARMS?
I WAS FORCED TO LISTEN.
It's a small house. I couldn't help it.
YOU LOVE RYO-SAMA...
DON'T YOU?

Thump
Thump
Thump
I'M SCARED.
IF I BREAK MY VOW...
AND LOVE RYO-DONO...
THEN I'M AFRAID UTA WILL REALLY DIE.

DOES THAT MEAN..
YOU LOVE ME AT LEAST A LITTLE?
THUMP
HOW STUPID ARE YOU?
YOU TOOK A VOW YOU CAN'T KEEP!
I AM STUPID!
BUT IF I KEEP THIS VOW,
I WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE HEISHI.
I'VE BEEN TELLING MYSELF THAT FOR ALL THESE YEARS.
UNTIL THEN—
CREAK
CREAK
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

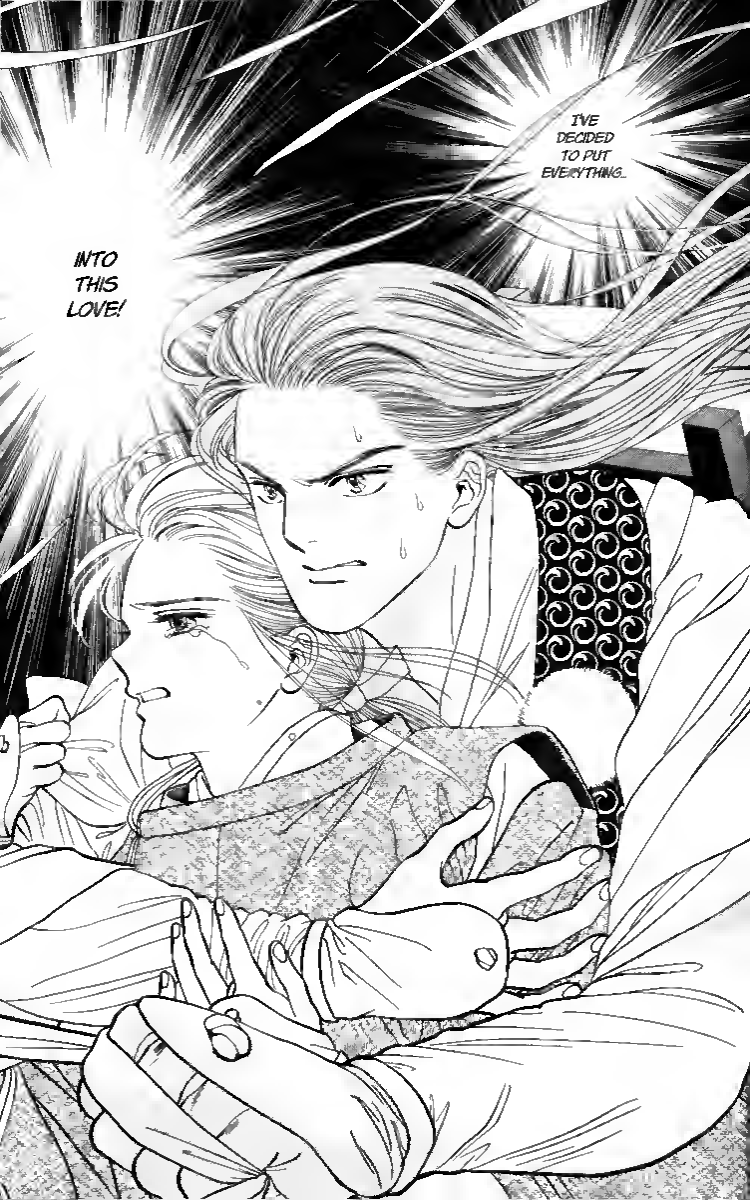
You were hurt all along?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING BENKEI?
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES.
Ah, I'm right here.
SLIDE
RYO-DONO!
HEISHI!
AN OXCART
HUH?
I'VE BEEN SENT HERE TO TAKE YOU TO ROKUHARA.
YOSHITSUNE-DONO!
THANKS, ANEUE!
HURRY AND GO!
I CAN DEAL WITH THIS.

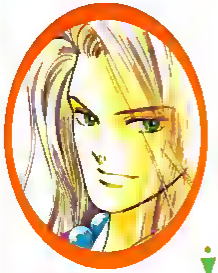
CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US YOSHITSUNE-DONO?
IT'S BEEN AWHILE. YOU LOOK GOOD. HOW IS EVERYTHING?
AH, YOSHI-DONO, PARDON US FOR COMING SO LATE.
OH
WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS LATE...
KAISON?
IF YOU HIDE HER, I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU EVEN IF YOU ARE MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOSHI-TSUNE?
TOKIWA-SAMA IS AT ROKUHARA.
SHE IS WAITING FOR YOU TO VISIT HER.
!!
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA,
PLEASE COME OUT!
WILL YOUR SISTER BE OK?
THIS WAY. HURRY.
HEY,
KAISON!

MY MOTHER IS AT ROKUHARA?
THEY TOOK HER HOSTAGE?
IF YOU DON'T COME...
YOUR MOTHER WILL BE VERY SORRY.
MY MOTHER!
Dash
YOU CAN'T GO.
SHE'LL BE KILLED IF I DON'T.
IF YOU GO TO ROKUHARA, YOU WILL BE FORCED TO MARRY KOREMORI!
BUT... MY MOTHER.
MOTHER!
You must not come here

You should not worry about my life
Do not sacrifice your heart
Go where your heart leads you
MOTHER!
Where your heart leads you
PLEASE.
HUH?
PLEASE TAKE ME TO KUMANO.
TAKE ME TO... BENKEI.
ARE YOU HERE, YOSHITSUNE?
BAM
KAISON!

SAMA?
YOSHI-TSUNE...
Gallop
Gallop
Gallop
I ABANDONED YOU.
FORGIVE ME, MOTHER.
GALLOP
AND CHOSE A LIFE WITH BENKEI
GALLOP
GALLOP


I'VE DECIDED TO PUT EVERYTHING...
INTO THIS LOVE!



Message from the Author

♡ "I didn't like history when I was a student. The story about Ushiwakamaru and Benkei fighting on the bridge was about all I remembered. When I was going to start work on 'Ryo', I opened my history textbook, which I hadn't read for many years, so the history in this story is not that accurate. Please overlook my mistakes in the details (will you?) But I'm glad many readers began liking history after reading 'Ryo.'"

(UEDA Rinko)

Ueda Rinko's Bestsellers

Button Teors for You
Counting the Some Dream
Prism Is the Lover <2 volumes>
Kiss My Eyes <10 volumes>
New School Heaven <7 volumes>
Ryo ①~⑤

LOVE
M·C
9705

MARGARET COMICS

リョウ
Ryo

5

上田倫子

Ryo
5

UEDA Rinko

2649◆
集英社

リョウ
Ryo
No.29

IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS SINCE WE LEFT THE CAPITAL.
WE'VE WALKED AND WALKED...
AND STILL ALL I SEE IS WAVE AFTER WAVE OF MOUNTAINS
THESE ARE...
THE HATENASHI MOUNTAINS?

AN OCEAN OF MOUNTAINS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.
YOU CAN'T SEE WHERE THEY END.
THAT IS WHY THEY ARE CALLED HATENASHI.
NEVER ENDING.
A JOURNEY WITHOUT END.
MOTHER...
Pain
RYO-DONO?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REST?
NO, I'M OK.
LET'S KEEP GOING, HEAIKEI.
Step
Step
Step
Crackle
Crackle
Crackle
Crackle
Crackle
Crackle
Sob
Sob
Sob
RYO-DONO...

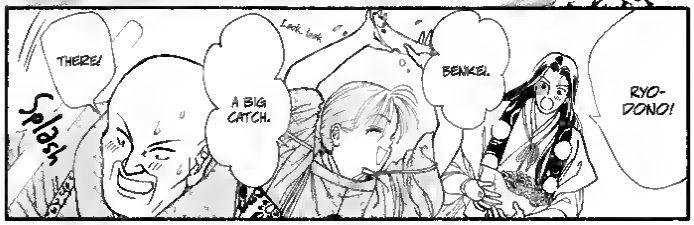
...DON'T WORRY.
Sob
Sob
Mother.
I SACRIFICED MY MOTHER
I...
YOU WERE NOT WRONG.
THE PATH YOU CHOSE...
WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
HOW MANY NIGHTS...
HAVE WE SPENT LIKE THIS?

Splash
Splash
I'M GOING TO GO COLLECT SOME NUTS. PLEASE DON'T WANDER OFF.
OK.
AH, BENKEI...
Ah, I see.
Is that a sword fight?
WHEN WE GET TO KUMANO, WILL I GET TO MEET YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER?
YES...
I WANT TO GREET THEM PROPERLY.

HIIYA!
Splash
ALL WE'VE BEEN EATING ARE NUTS AND GRASS
BENIKEI NEEDS MORE ENERGY.
Splash
Splash
GOT IT!
Tsuch
HUH?
Swing
UH..
WHOA!
OH!
Splash
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

*Oji san = old man

Splash
OJII-SAN IT'S HEADING YOUR WAY
NOT THAT WAY.
WHERE IS IT?
OH, THERE!
Splash
I'm catching them with my bare hands.


THERE!
Splash
Look, look
A BIG CATCH.
BENKEI.
RYO-DONO!

UMM—
THIS IS SO GOOD.

SECRET.
I SEE YOU ARE A NOBLE.
WHICH TEMPLE ARE YOU FROM?
I'VE ONLY HAD IT DRIED OR PICKLED.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD FRESH, GRILLED FISH.
Can't believe it.
OJII-SAN YOU REALLY NEVER ATE FISH LIKE THIS BEFORE?
I THINK HE'S OK.
I DON'T THINK HE'S A HEISHI.
Whisper
ISN'T HE A BIT SUSPICIOUS?
Chew
Delicious
Chew
YES PEOPLE OFTEN MISTAKE ME FOR THE OTHER BENKEI.
Thump
RIGHT?
Thump
E-SASHI-BOU BENKEI...
OJII-SAN THEY JUST HAVE THE SAME NAME.
Chew
Chew
I HEARD THAT OTHER BENKEI BECAME THE SERVANT OF A GENJI HEIR.
I SEE, I SEE.
HUH?
BENKEI?
ARE YOU THAT NOTORIOUS MONK?
Choke
OJII-SAN, THIS ONE'S DONE.
OH!
Munch Munch
BENKEI, EAT SOME. WE'VE GOT LOTS.
Yes

Translation ^_^Tonpopo
Scans Ink
Edits Vgsounds (cleaning) & Ink (text)
Proofreading Conner

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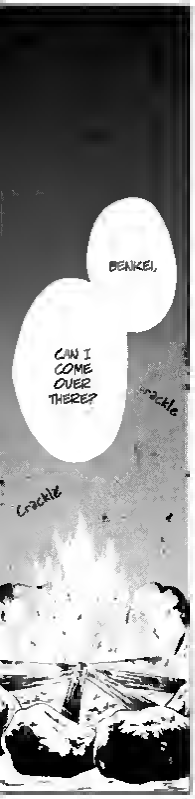
IF THE GENJI REVIVE
THE HEISHI WOULD BE TAMED A LITTLE BIT.
WHAT'S WRONG, OJII-SAN?
Sigh
Chew
Chew
THEY HAVE BECOME TOO ARROGANT.
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY ARE ACTING NOW.
DON'T YOU LIKE THE HEISHI?
EH? ALREADY?
FINISH EATING. THE MORNING IS ALMOST OVER.
BENKEI YOU DON'T LIKE THE HEISHI, EITHER.
Booo
YES YES.
YEAH YEAH. THEY'RE GETTING TOO UPPITY. WHO CARES ABOUT THEIR POWER, RIGHT?
I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK. MY PARTY WILL BE WORRYING ABOUT ME.
RIOUMARU, STOP GOSSIPING!
THIS IS FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
RIOU-MARU,

WAIT A MOMENT!
WHAT'S INSIDE?
THANK YOU.
PLEASE TAKE IT
OH, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY
YOU CAN ONLY OPEN IT..
ONCE YOU HAVE CROSSED THOSE THREE MOUNTAINS.
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO A HARD JOURNEY BECOMES MORE FUN.
TAKE CARE.
YOU, TOO, OJII-SAN
YEAH!

BENKEI, LET'S GET GOING
I AM GRATEFUL TO THAT STRANGE MONK.
HE MADE RYO-DONO SMILE AGAIN
What do you think, Benkei?
KOKUHARA
THOUGH IT WAS MY GRAND-FATHER'S ORDER.
IT WAS RUDE OF US TO TAKE YOU AS HOSTAGES. I AM VERY SORRY.
I PERSONALLY GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY.
SO PLEASE BE PATIENT UNTIL WE FIND YOSHITSUNE.

IF HE WEREN'T A HEISHI, RYO-SAMA MIGHT HAVE BEEN WILLING TO—
NO.
KOREMORI-SAMA...
HOWEVER FINE A PERSON KOREMORI-DONO IS,
THERE IS NO CHANGING THE FACT THAT HE IS A HEISHI.
YOU ARE HOSTAGES BECAUSE OF YOSHITSUNE.
I AM SORRY.
TOKUJA-GOZEN...
I AM NOT SURE THEY WILL BE WILLING TO HELP A GENJI HEIR.
KUMANO IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HEISHI.
SATSUKI-SAMA...
TROUBLES YOU?
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT TROUBLES ME.
BUT...
ONCE RYO-SAMA REACHES HIRAIZUMI, HIDEHIRA-SAMA WILL THINK OF SOME PLAN.


BENKEI,
CAN I COME OVER THERE?
Crackle
Crackle

OH, THEN THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY
SO IT'S BENKEI'S—
EXCEPT THAT BENKEI WAS DISOWNED BY OUR FATHER.
I HOPE..
HE AND MY FATHER CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER WITH OPEN HEARTS.

...IT IS MY FATHER WHO RULES KUMANO.

I'M OK.
AREN'T YOU COLD?
HEHE.
YES.
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
BENKEI
INSTEAD OF GOING TO HIRAIZUMI,
I'LL GO TO IZU.
BUT YOSHINAKA-DONO SAID YOUR BROTHER IS RAISING AN ARMY
I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE WAR—
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM, BUT HE'S MY BROTHER,
SO I THINK HE CAN HELP ME.
IZU? WHERE YORITOMO-DONO IS?
YEAH.

I JUST WANT...
TO SEE MY BROTHER.
I WAS TREATED WELL IN HIRAIZUMI
BUT THEY AREN'T MY FAMILY.
MY DREAM IS TO LEAVE THIS ERA AND RETURN TO MY OLD LIFE IN KAMAKURA.
YOUR DREAM...
ME, TOO?
OF COURSE, I WANT YOU TO COME, TOO.
HEY, YOU!

A MOUNTAIN PRIEST AND AN APPRENTICE. ARE YOU HERE TRAINING?
TRAVELING IN THE WILDERNESS
AND TRAINING HARD IS APPROPRIATE FOR A MOUNTAIN PRIEST
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH AN APPRENTICE WHO LOOKS LIKE A GIRL?
WHAT?
BENKEI!
YOU ARE MUSASHIBOU BENKEI!

THAT LONG HAIR AND THE HALBERD YOU CARRY— YOU MUST BE BENKEI!
I DON'T KNOW YOU.
DON'T LIE!
HE ONCE STOLE MY SWORD ON THE GOJOU BRIDGE
WHO?
THIS GUY?
IF WE TAKE THEM TO THE HEISHI, THE REWARD WILL BE GREAT.
Smirk
THE RUNAWAY GENJI HEIR
SO THAT MUST MEAN THIS APPRENTICE IS—
YOU—
ANGRY!
!!
STOP!
YOU PHONY PRIEST!
WHAT?
Right down!
YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY FOR A PRIEST TO LIVE..
BUT NOW ALL YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IS A REWARD? YOUR TRAINING MUST BE LACKING!

SHUT UP, YOU SHITTY MONK!
HOW SHAMEFUL FOR A PRIEST TO ATTACK AN APPRENTICE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN CALLED SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.
SHITTY MONK?
OJII-SAN!
HOUOU-SAMA*!
*retired emperor who has become a monk
OH MY
HOUOU-SAMA
WE ASKED YOU NOT TO WALK AROUND ALONE.
HUH?
HOUOU-SAMA?!
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BEHAVE YOURSELF IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AUGUST HOUOU
DIDN'T YOU CALL ME A SHITTY MONK?

OJII-SAN IS...
HOUOU-SAMA!
Hmph
WE DIDN'T REALIZE WHO YOU WERE.
PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR OUR RUDENESS
QUICKLY BOW
I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH AN IDIOT.
Turn
GO AWAY.
YES.
UH...
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
Run Run Run
THIS IS MY APPRENTICE.
RIGHT RIOUMARU?
AH... YES!
BUT, HOUOU-SAMA—
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
WE NEED TO CAPTURE THEM AND TAKE THEM TO ROKUHARA
THESE TWO ARE YOSHITSUNE AND BENKEI, WHO ARE WANTED BY THE HEISHI.
NO
Ahhh~ Ahhh~
ARE YOU HURT?
HOUOU-SAMA,
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE THIS MORNING...
I was rude.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THE FISH WAS VERY GOOD.

THE CAT LIKED THE FISH I SAVED FOR HIM, TOO.
I'M NOT A CAT! I'M NEKOMA* NO CHUU-NAGON!
AND I DON'T EAT SUCH PRIMITIVE FOOD!
YES, YES. NOW GO BACK TO THE PALANQUIN.
MY, SUCH A NOISY CAT.
*neko—cat
RIOU-MARU,
IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY MORE PEOPLE LIKE THAT,
SHOW THEM THE PACKAGE I GAVE YOU THIS MORNING AND TELL THEM YOU ARE MY MESSENGER.
YES...
...HOUOU-SAMA!
OK THEN.
BE CAREFUL ON THE ROAD.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, HOUOU-SAMA.
ONE MORE THING...
PLEASE SAY HELLO TO HIDEHIRA IN HIRAIZUMI FOR ME.

I FEEL UNEASY ABOUT HOUOU-SAMA.
RYO-DONO...
WOW, BENKEI, I GOT TO KNOW HOUOU-SAMA!
YES, I WILL.
HOW DOES HE KNOW ABOUT HIDEHIRA-SAMA?
YES, THAT'S CERTAINLY TRUE...
WHY? HE'S VERY NICE.
HOUOU-SAMA SEEMS TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING.
IF I WERE TO LET DOWN MY GUARD,
..BUT HIS VERY OPENNESS-
EVEN THAT I'M YOSHITSUNE.
I'M NOT SURE I COULD KEEP ANYTHING HIDDEN FROM HIM

*Takiguri Ouji (ouji = prince) one of the five highest ranked princes among the sacred 99 Kumano princes
Presumably, this landmark indicates that Kumano is near

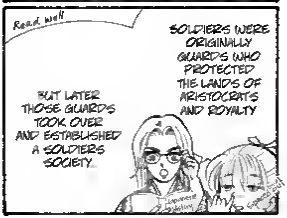
FOR SOME REASON, BENKEI DOESN'T THINK WELL OF HOUOU-SAMA.
BUT THANKS TO HIM WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE OUR JOURNEY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.
AFTER JUST A FEW DAYS, WE ARRIVED SAFELY IN KUMANO
滝尻王子

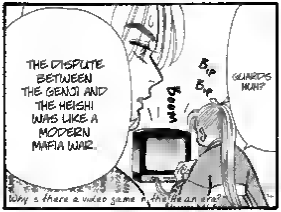
BENKEI,
WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR A WOMAN'S KIMONO?
IT'S JUST AN HOUR'S WALK TO THE VILLAGE WHERE I WAS BORN.
SO? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS KIMONO?
Pull

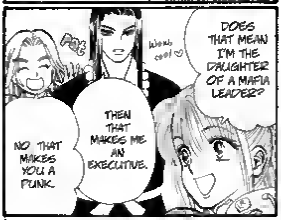
BECAUSE WHEN I INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FATHER...
I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE.

Herin's 4-PANEL STRIP PART 1

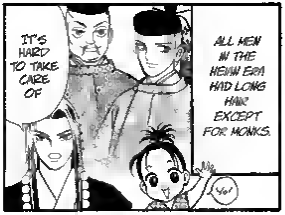
Aoi's "What Is This?" Lesson, Part 1

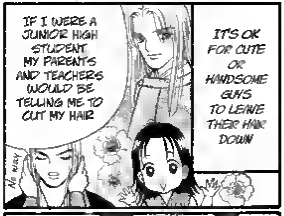

Read well!
SOLDIERS WERE ORIGINALLY GUARDS WHO PROTECTED THE LANDS OF ARISTOCRATS AND ROYALTY
BUT LATER THOSE GUARDS TOOK OVER AND ESTABLISHED A SOLDIERS SOCIETY.

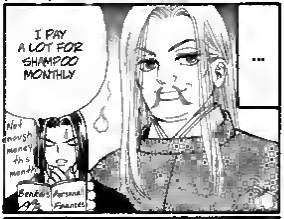

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE GENJI AND THE HEISHI WAS LIKE A MODERN MAFIA WAR.
Bip Bip
Boom!
GUARDS HUH?
Why is there a video game in the Heian era?

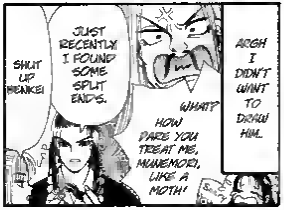


Hair Is a Man's Life

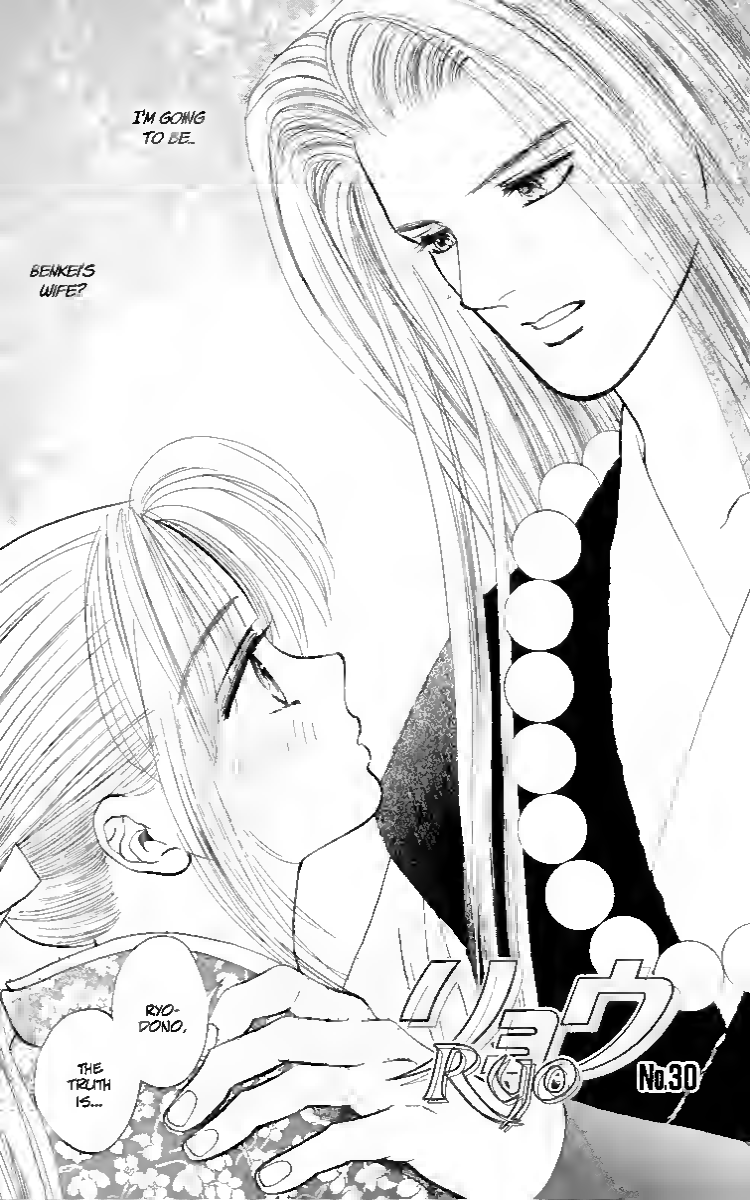


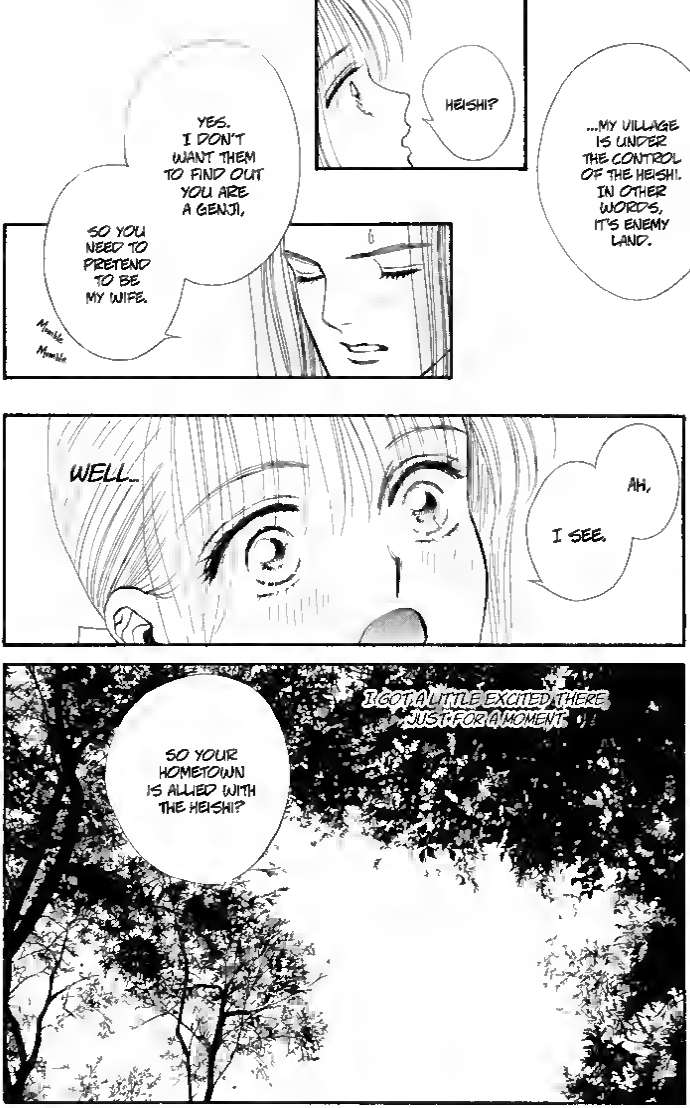

IF I WERE A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT MY PARENTS AND TEACHERS WOULD BE TELLING ME TO CUT MY HAIR
IT'S OK FOR CUTE OR HANDSOME GUYS TO LEAVE THEIR HAIR DOWN
Me too!
Me!




SHUT UP MANKEI
JUST RECENTLY I FOUND SOME SPLIT ENDS.
WHAT?
HOW DARE YOU TREAT ME, MANEMOE), LIKE A MOTH!
ARGH I DIDN'T WANT TO DRAW HIM.

TO BE CONTINUED IN PART 2


I'M GOING TO BE...
BENKEI'S WIFE?
RYO-DONO,
THE TRUTH IS...
RYO
No.30


HEISHI?
...MY VILLAGE IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HEISHI. IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S ENEMY LAND.
YES. I DON'T WANT THEM TO FIND OUT YOU ARE A GENJI.
SO YOU NEED TO PRETEND TO BE MY WIFE.
Mumble Mumble
WELL...
AH, I SEE.
SO YOUR HOMETOWN IS ALLIED WITH THE HEISHI?
I GOT A LITTLE EXCITED THERE JUST FOR A MOMENT...

BUT YOUR VILLAGE ..
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON THEIR SIDE.
WERE YOU A HEISHI SUPPORTER, TOO?
...
RYO-DONO.
JUST PRETEND WE ARE A COUPLE.
I DON'T CARE IF BENKEI'S VILLAGE IS SIDING WITH THE HEISHI OR NOT—
IF I CAN HOLD HIS HAND FOR EVEN JUST A SECOND.

MOM, MOM, I JUST SAW A REALLY HUGE MAN.
Step
Step
HUGE?
A PILGRIM TO KUMANO?
!!
Sneak Sneak
DON'T GO OUT THERE!
SLAM
WHY NOT, MOM?
QUIET!

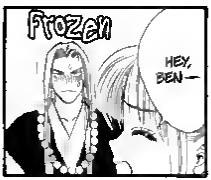
STEP
STEP
Startle
SLAM
Shut
Swish
BAM
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY ARE WARY OF STRANGERS. IT'S BEEN THIS WAY FOR A LONG TIME.
Rumble
Rumble
BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO RUN AWAY LIKE THAT.

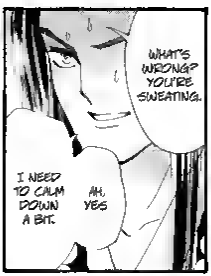
THE KUMANO SHINE. MY FATHER IS THE HEAD PRIEST.
THIS IS...

I'M GETTING NERVOUS.
Thump Thump
WOW!

WHAT?
ISN'T THIS YOUR HOME?
BUT—
Yun Yun (Lucky)
BENKEI?!

HMM.
IS ANYBODY HERE?
HELLO!
WHOA.
RYO-DONO


Frozen
HEY, BEN—


WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SWEATING.
I NEED TO CALM DOWN A BIT.
AH. YES

AH,
ANICIE.*
BENKEI?
ARE YOU...
*Annue = older brother
HE SHOULD BE BACK WITHIN 10 DAYS.
FATHER LEFT FOR THE MAIN SHRINE YESTERDAY.
WHAT ABOUT HIS MOTHER?
EH?
WE DON'T HAVE A MOTHER
SHE DIED RIGHT AFTER BENKEI WAS BORN

OH...
BENKEI DIDN'T TELL YOU?
NOTH-ING.
NO...
HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE?
Slap
UH... SORRY.
SO BENKEI'S WIFE IS STRONGER THAN HE IS
Eh?
WELL HE DESERVES A WIFE WITH A STRONG WILL.
YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER YOUR LONG TRIP.
RYO-DONO, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ONII-SAMA.
SWISH
...

FOR AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THIS VILLAGE, WE HAVE TO PRETEND WE'RE REALLY MARRIED, EVEN IN THIS HOUSE.
IF I'M GOING TO ACT LIKE YOUR WIFE, I WANT TO ACT LIKE A CUTE ONE.
PUPA
ARGH.
HE SAID I'M STRONGER THAN YOU.
SO EMBARRASSING
I HAVE TO GO TO THE SECRET HARBOR AND LOOK FOR A SHIP.
PLEASE STAY INSIDE AND DON'T DO ANYTHING RISKY.
Nod
Nod
HONEY!
THUNK
I'M GOING THEN.
OK, BE CAREFUL.
I WANT TO GO, TOO.
NO.
Phew
RYO-DONO—
Cough
YOU SHOULDN'T CALL YOUR WIFE DONO.
WAIT HERE... RYO.

"RYO"
BUT...
"HONEY"♡
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES!
HAH. HE'S WORSE THAN I AM AT PRETENDING WE'RE MARRIED
DASH
SO EXCITING ~♡
Delight
I WISH WE COULD STAY HERE FOREVER.
Roll
I'M HIS WIFE WHILE WE'RE HERE♡
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS ABOUT HIM THAT I DON'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T KNOW HIS HOME WAS AN IMPRESSIVE SHRINE,
OR THAT HIS MOTHER DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
AND ABOUT UTA-SAN.

HAH!
CHOP
RYO-DONO,
YOU ARE OUR GUEST. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
HIIYA.
TANKEN-SAMA.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOP THE FIREWOOD.
Chop
HIYA
IT'S A WIFE'S JOB TO PREPARE MEALS.
← Being an obedient wife
BENKEI'S..?
...
IT'S THE GIRL BENKEI BROUGHT FROM THE CAPITAL.
IT'S NOT ME.
I'M RYO.
?
OH MURA-KAMI-S— ARE YOU VISITING THE SHRINE?
YES.
Split
IT SEEMS STRANGE FOR TANKEN-SAMA TO BE CHOPPING WOOD.

I'M SORRY.
NOT AT ALL.
I'M STRONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE.
I AM SO GLAD BENKEI FOUND SUCH A NICE WIFE.
I'M NOT A NICE WIFE...
I've been meaning to know more about her.
I HOPE MY KAISON WILL FIND A WIFE AND COME HOME SOON.
ARE YOU KAISON'S MOTHER?
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
YES... WELL, I MET HIM TWO OR THREE TIMES.
SO HER SON IS KAISON THAT MEANS...
IS HE DOING WELL?
YES, HE IS SERVING TAIRA NO KOREMORI.
SHE MUST BE UTA-SAN'S...
I SEE.
HE IS A SINCERE PERSON.
I CAN GO ON MY OWN FROM HERE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

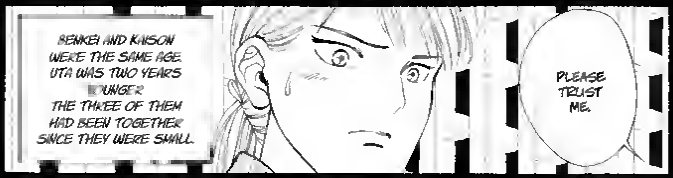
AH...
WAIT, PLEASE!
CAN YOU TELL ME...
ABOUT UTA-SAN?
...
UTA?

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN TEN YEARS...
THE GENJI AND THE HEISHI BOTH WANTED KUMANO TO BECOME AN ALLY.
BENKEI'S FATHER TANJOU-SAMA, WAS THE STEWARD OF KUMANO. HE PERFORMED A DIVINATION USING COCK-FIGHTING.
SEVEN WHITE ROOSTERS REPRESENTED THE GENJI'S WHITE FLAGS...
AND SEVEN RED ROOSTERS FOR THE HEISHI.
THE RED ROOSTERS WON.
PLEASE, FATHER, RECONSIDER.
KUMANO HAS ALWAYS BEEN INDEPENDENT.

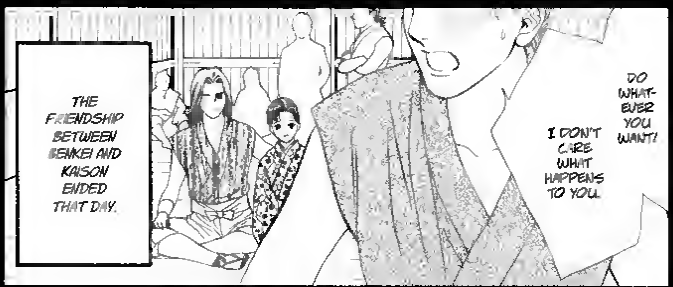
BENKEI
THE GODS HAVE TOLD US TO SIDE WITH THE HEISHI.
I CANNOT GO AGAINST THAT.
BUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD BY BENKEI DECIDED TO PROTECT KUMANO'S INDEPENDENCE. THEY TOOK OVER THE SHRINE AND BARRICADED IT
THE VILLAGERS GAVE IN AND DECIDED TO ALLY WITH THE HEISHI IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIVINATION.
BENKEI,
I THINK WE WOULD BE SMARTER TO SIDE WITH THE HEISHI.
KAISON.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S THE HEISHI OR THE GENJI...
I CAN'T ACCEPT OTHERS USING THEIR POWER TO CONTROL US OR OUR LAND.

BENKEI AND I ARE ENGAGED.
EVEN IF I HAD LIVES TO SPARE, I STILL WOULDN'T WASTE THEM STAYING WITH YOU GUYS.
FINE.
LET'S GO HOME, UTA.
I'M ST...YING.
UTA!
I WILL FIGHT AGAINST SUCH INJUSTICE WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
THAT'S ALL.
I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE BENKEI TOLD ME TO.
I REALLY WANT TO PROTECT THIS VILLAGE.
THAT'S A SEPARATE ISSUE.
DON'T GET ME WRONG NII-SAN.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF UTA.
KAISON...


SEIKEI AND KAISON WERE THE SAME AGE. UTA WAS TWO YEARS YOUNGER. THE THREE OF THEM HAD BEEN TOGETHER SINCE THEY WERE SMALL.
PLEASE TRUST ME.

BUT KAISON AND UTA WERE ALWAYS THERE FOR HIM.
SEIKEI'S MOTHER DIED GIVING BIRTH TO HIM SO HE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE WITH HIS FAMILY


THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SEIKEI AND KAISON ENDED THAT DAY.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!

STEP
THE HEISHI ARE COMING.
STEP
IT'S THE HEISHI ARMY.
STEP
TEN DAYS AFTER BENKEI AND THE OTHERS BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN THE SHRINE...
UTA.
YOU SHOULD GO HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
UTA...
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE HEISHI TO FINISH IT UP.
THIRTY INEXPERIENCED YOUNGSTERS AGAINST HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS...
WAHHH

AHHH!
UTA?
CLANG
DAMN!
THEY JUST KEEP COMING.
NO MATTER HOW MANY I KILL.
Slash
ARGH.
Splurt
SLASH
SHIT!
URGH.
ARE YOU OK, UTA?
BENKEI!
!!

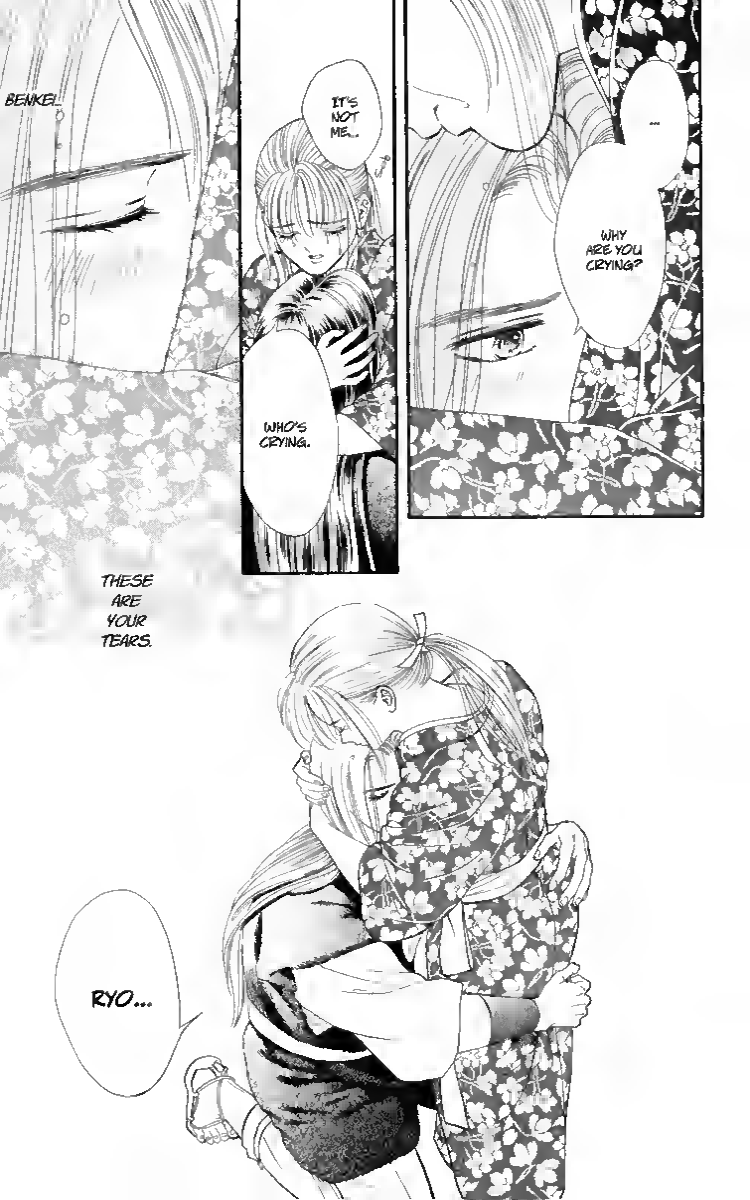
UTA...
Thup
Thup
!!
URGH.

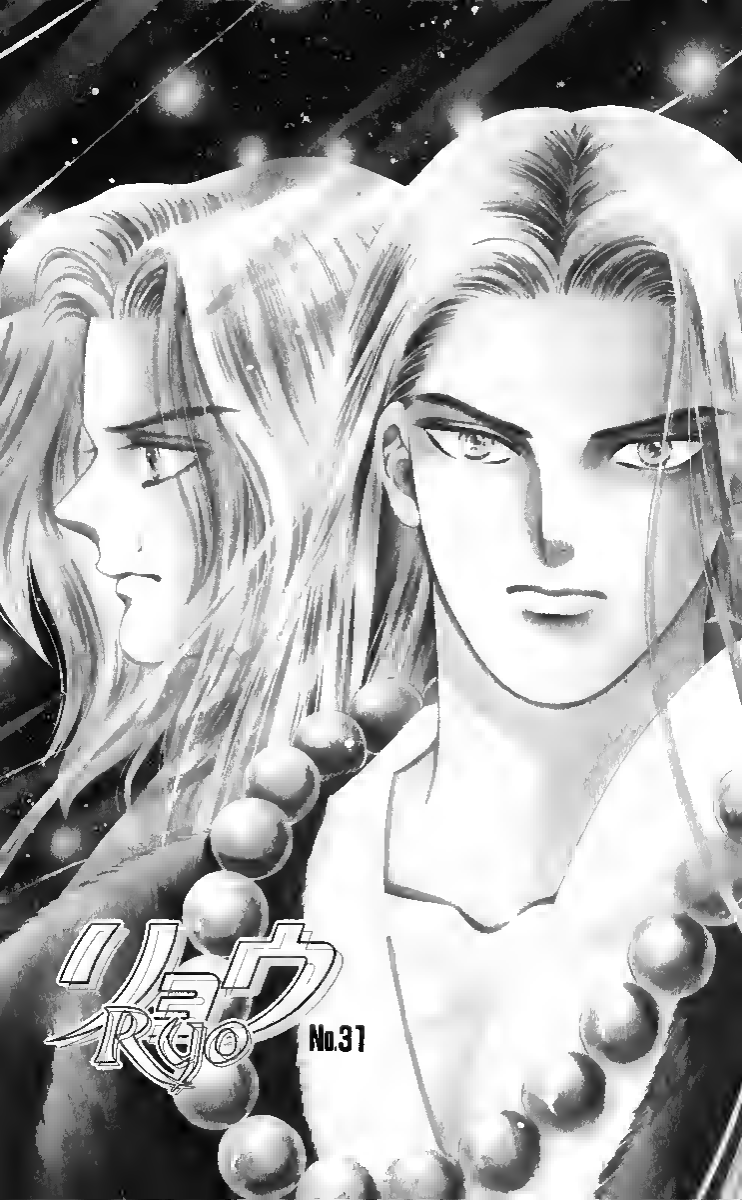
BURNING
ALL OF THE YOUNG VILLAGERS WHO TRIED TO STAND AGAINST THE HEISHI WERE KILLED
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE HEISHI.
Wahhhh
I TOLD YOU...
NOT TO FIGHT IN VAIN.
...
HUFF
BEN... KEI.
UTA!
HOLD ON!
UNGH...
FLAMES
UTA.

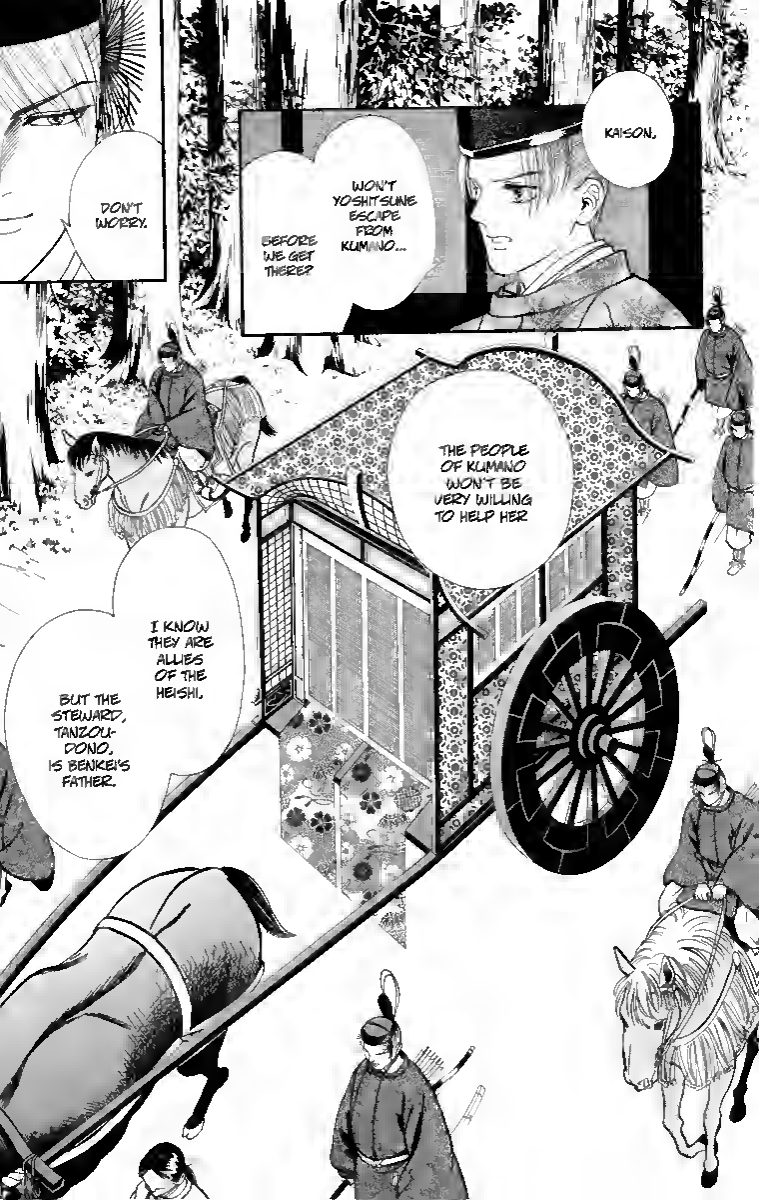
COLLAPSE
HUFF
HUFF
FORGIVE ME...
I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU.
STEP
STEP
UTA.
PLEASE...
AT LEAST LET ME DREAM ABOUT MAKING YOU HAPPY.
LET'S FIND AN ISLAND SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE OCEAN.
WE CAN LIVE THERE TOGETHER
UNTIL WE DIE.
OCEAN...
I CAN SEE IT.
UTA...

HE LEFT THE VILLAGE WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.
ONLY BENKEI SURVIVED.
LATER HE BECAME A MT. HIEI MONK.
ONLY BAD RUMORS ABOUT HIM REACHED OUR VILLAGE.
AND BECAME FEARED BY EVERYONE IN THE CAPITAL.
KAISON COULD NEVER FORGIVE BENKEI. HE WENT TO THE CAPITAL TO SERVE THE HEISHI.
BUT I DON'T HATE BENKEI.
I'M SURE UTA WAS HAPPY TO BE LOVED BY HIM, EVEN FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME.

RYO-DONO!
URGH.
I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN THE HOUSE.
...
Hold
BENKEI.
WHOA.
I'M SORRY
WAAA.
WAS I TOO HARSH?
Waa—
Awah-wah-wah
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
RYO-DONO WHAT—
DON'T CALL ME DONO.
Huh?


BENKEI...
IT'S NOT ME...
WHO'S CRYING.
...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
THESE ARE YOUR TEARS.
RYO...


リョウ
Ryo
No.31


DON'T WORRY.
KAISON.
WON'T YOSHITSUNE ESCAPE FROM KUMANO... BEFORE WE GET THERE?
THE PEOPLE OF KUMANO WON'T BE VERY WILLING TO HELP HER
I KNOW THEY ARE ALLIES OF THE HEISHI.
BUT THE STEWARD, TANZOU-DONO, IS BENKEI'S FATHER.

TANZOU-SAMA AND BENKEI ARE ESTRANGED.
THAT'S THE REASON —
IF WE RUSH TOWARD KUMANO WITH AN ARMED FORCE, YOSHITSUNE WOULD BE WARNED AND TRY TO ESCAPE.
SO IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO POSE AS A NOBLEMAN ON A PILGRIMAGE TO KUMANO.
KOREMORI WENT TO KUMANO.

Translation ^_^Tanpopo
Scans & edits Ink
Proofreading Conner

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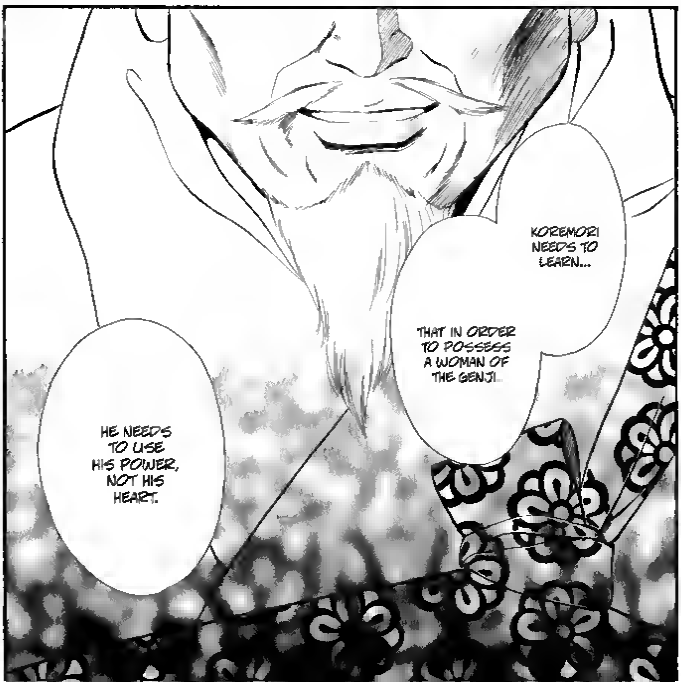
*Chichiue = father



WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
YOU COULDN'T FIND A SHIP?
THIS AREA HAS BEEN PEACEFUL FOR 10 YEARS SO THERE ARE NO SHIPS...
UNLESS THEY'VE CHANGED THE HIDING PLACE.
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL MY FATHER COMES BACK.
DO WHAT?
GO TO HIRAIZUMI BY SHIP, RIGHT?
THE REASON WE CAME HERE WAS—
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD CHANGE BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO GO TO BED.

FOR A MARRIED COUPLE TO DO THAT.
Ee...
WOULDN'T IT SEEM STRANGE...
Sigh
Stumble
I CAN CHANGE MY CLOTHES MYSELF
AND I'M GOING TO SLEEP IN THE NEXT ROOM.
Stumble
KLOW
Thump
Thump
Thump
...
I- I STILL THINK I SHOULD—
JUST FOR NOW WHILE WE ARE STAYING HERE..
LET ME HOLD ON TO THIS DREAM ..
THAT YOU AND I ARE A REAL COUPLE.

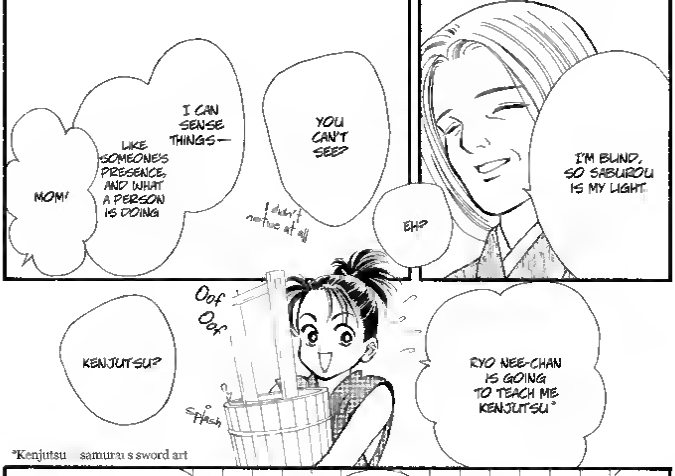
Thump
Thump
Thump
Thump
GOOD NIGHT
Kiss
BENKEI.♡
EH?
That's all?
Where are the hands for?
YOU'VE BEEN TENSE AND HAVEN'T GOTTEN MUCH SLEEP EVER SINCE WE LEFT THE CAPITAL.
BUT NOW YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST
AH... YES...

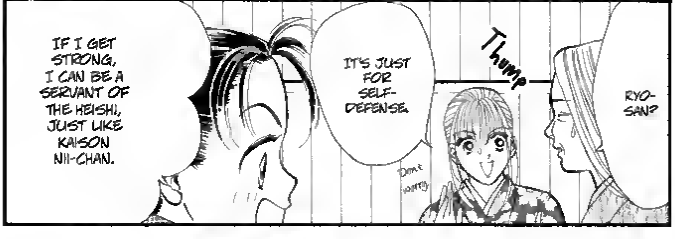
LET'S DREAM
ALTHOUGH THE DREAM WILL EVENTUALLY FADE AWAY
WE WILL STILL BE TOGETHER
_EVEN WHEN IT ENDS

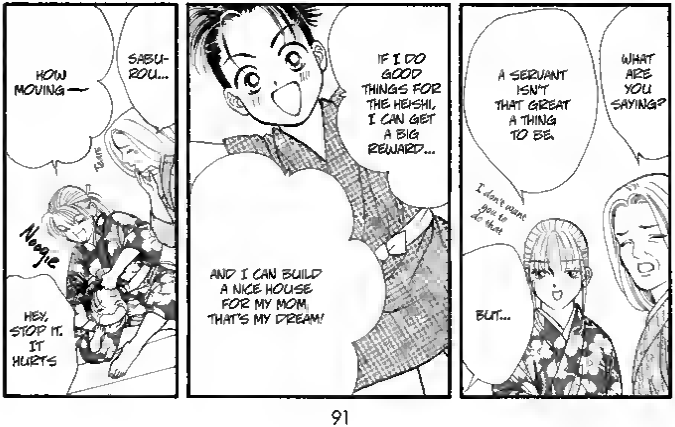
ONCE UPON A TIME..
AN OLD MAN WENT TO FIND A SHIP
AND A GIRL WENT TO THE RIVER TO DO THE LAUNDRY
Splash Splash
IT SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIDS ARE HAVING FUN.
WA! WA!
Thud
Ouch
YOU!
Kick
Hit
DON'T TRY TO RUN OFF.
STOP IT!
DON'T BE SO MEAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Wet laundry
OUCH!
SLAP

'SABUROU IS AN ORPHAN.'
I HAVE A MOTHER!
Wahhhhhh
BUT YOU GUYS SAID A MEAN THING ABOUT ME.
IT WASN'T MEAN, IT WAS THE TRUTH.
SABUROU STARTED IT.
Thwap
Snap
Snap
Urgh
Ouch
Wah!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN OLD HAG?
THAT HURTS, OLD HAG!
GRRR
Do you want some more?
HOW RUDE.
IF YOU SAY THAT AGAIN, I'LL EAT YOU
Waaaah
Stupid Hag!
Monster!

MOM~
DON'T CRY.
AREN'T YOU A BOY?
YEAH
SABUROU
DID YOU GET PICKED ON AGAIN?
!!
I'M GOING TO GET SOME WATER.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HIS MOTHER
FOR HELPING SABUROU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH..
It was nothing
Step Step Step
OBA-SAN?
THAT VOICE...
RYO-SAN?
AFTER I LOST MY HUSBAND I WAS LONELY ALL BY MYSELF.
SABUROU IS AN ORPHAN SO I ADOPTED HIM.

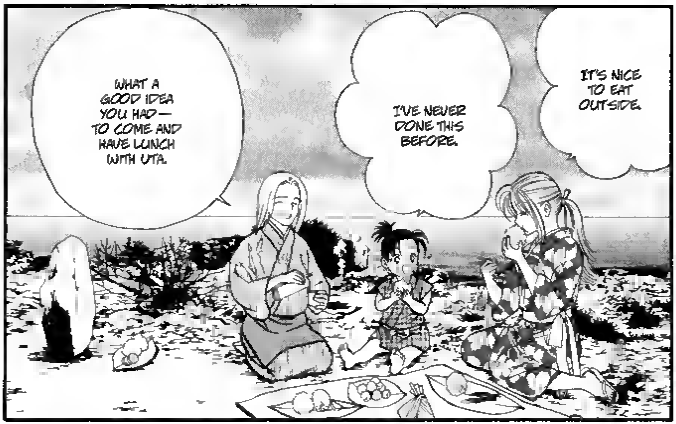

I'M BLIND, SO SABUROU IS MY LIGHT
EH?
YOU CAN'T SEE?
I DON'T NEED IT AT ALL
I CAN SENSE THINGS— LIKE SOMEONE'S PRESENCE, AND WHAT A PERSON IS DOING
MOM!
RYO WEE-CHAN IS GOING TO TEACH ME KENJUTSU*
Oof Oof
Splash
KENJUTSU?
*Kenjutsu samurai's sword art

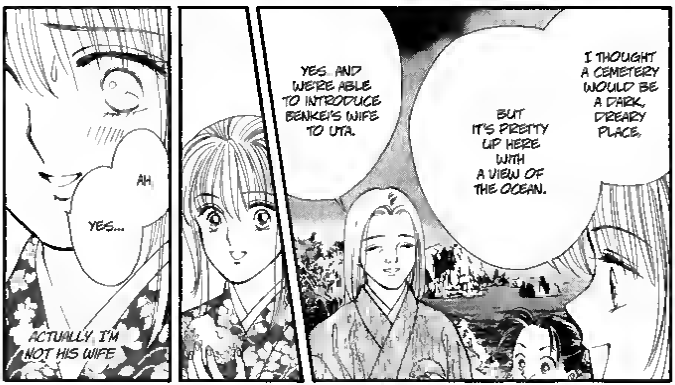

RYO-SAN?
Thump
IT'S JUST FOR SELF-DEFENSE.
Don't worry
IF I GET STRONG, I CAN BE A SERVANT OF THE HEISHI, JUST LIKE KAISON NII-CHAN.


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
A SERVANT ISN'T THAT GREAT A THING TO BE.
I don't want you to be that
BUT...
IF I DO GOOD THINGS FOR THE HEISHI, I CAN GET A BIG REWARD...
AND I CAN BUILD A NICE HOUSE FOR MY MOM. THAT'S MY DREAM!
SABU-ROU...
HOW MOVING—
Nuzzle
HEY, STOP IT. IT HURTS

RYO-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY FOR LUNCH?
Wow
MAY I?
LET ME HELP YOU THEN
OH, NO, YOU'RE MY GUEST.
I HATE TO SAY THIS BUT I'VE NEVER DONE MUCH HOUSEWORK.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO COOK ANYTHING BENKEI WOULD LIKE.
SO I'D LIKE TO LEARN ..
RYO-SAN.
YOU MUST TRULY BE IN LOVE WITH BENKEI.
I REALLY WANT TO MAKE HIM HAPPY!
YES.

PLEASE EAT.
THESE ARE FOR UTA-SAN.


WHAT A GOOD IDEA YOU HAD— TO COME AND HAVE LUNCH WITH UTA.
I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.
IT'S NICE TO EAT OUT-SIDE.


AH, YES...
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT HIS WIFE
YES. AND WE'RE ABLE TO INTRODUCE BEANIE'S WIFE TO UTA.
BUT IT'S PRETTY UP HERE WITH A VIEW OF THE OCEAN.
I THOUGHT A CEMETERY WOULD BE A DARK, DREARY PLACE.

SABUROU,
LET'S START YOUR SWORD TRAINING AFTER WE GET BACK.
YEAH!
Munch Munch
Crisp
FOR UTA-SAN'S SAKE, TOO.
BUT
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE BENKEI.
SOMEONE IS COMING.
_THIS FEELING IS TRUE.

*Hahaue = mother

I LET UTA DIE,
AND I DIDN'T EVEN APOLOGIZE TO YOU BEFORE I LEFT THE VILLAGE.
I AM SO SORRY!
BOW
BENKEI?!
SO SORRY.
I AM SORRY.
SORRY.

HATED YOU.
BENKEI, I NEVER..
I WAS WORRIED..
NOT FOR THE ONE WHO HAD DIED AND FOUND PEACE...
BUT FOR THE ONE WHO SURVIVED. AND FELT PAIN. YOUR PAIN, BENKEI.
BUT I FELT RELIEVED WHEN I MET RYO-SAN.
SHE REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU.
UTA MUST BE HAPPY IN HEAVEN.

TAKE CARE OF RYO-SAN.
THANK YOU.

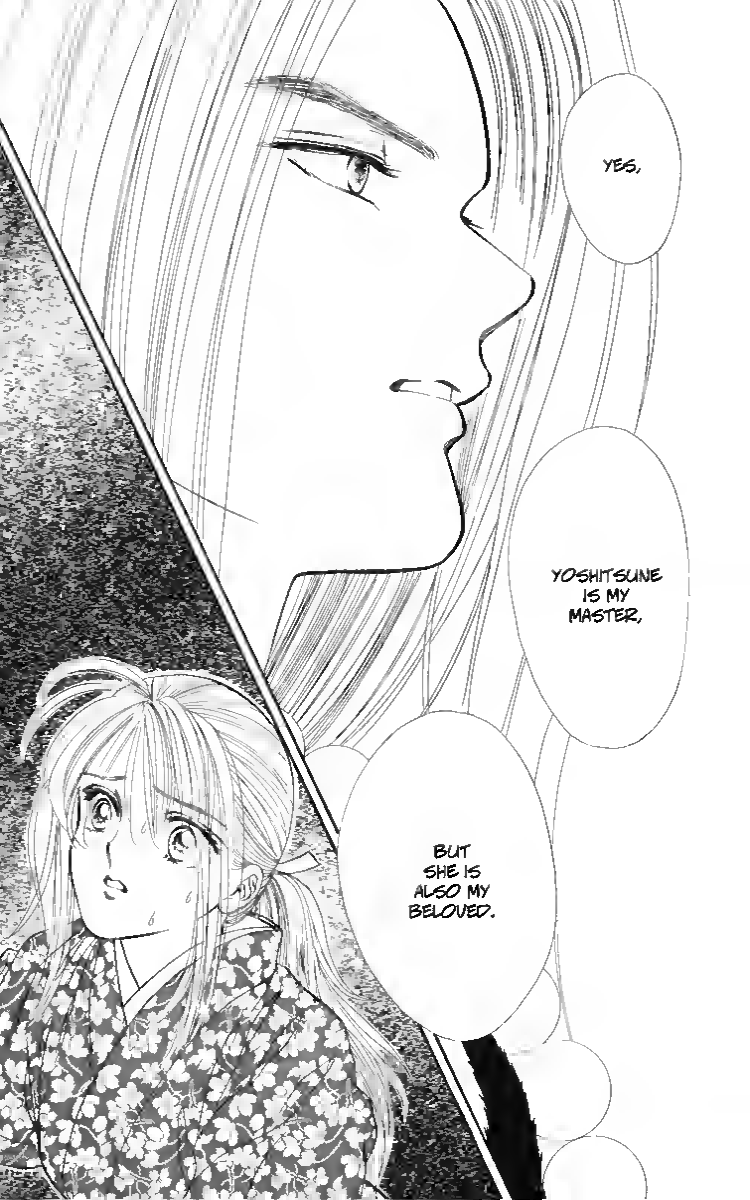
DID YOU TALK TO UTA-SAN?
YES
I TOLD HER ABOUT YOU.
ABOUT ME?
DON'T WORRY.
UTA ISN'T THE JEALOUS TYPE.
PUFF'S UP——
YEAH, YEAH. I'M THE MOST JEALOUS WOMAN IN JAPAN ..
Frash
!

I LOVE YOU THE MOST...
SO...
..BECAUSE...
I—
RYO-DONO, I LOVE YOU THE MOST, TOO.
ME?
THE MOST?
BENKEI!
CHICHIJIE—
CHICHIJIE IS BACK!
Pant
Pant

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, CHICHILIE.
Thump Thump
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M RYO.
Step
Step
Step
Swish
...YES.
RYO-DONO, PLEASE COME WITH ME.
EH?
AH, YES.

Click
Shut
I HAVEN'T REALLY INTRODUCED MYSELF TO YOUR FATHER YET.
HE NEEDS TO TALK TO BENKEI FIRST, SO PLEASE WAIT HERE.
OH, RIGHT.
Rattle
Rattle
ONII-SAMA?
WHY DID HE LOCK THE DOOR?
ONII-SAMA!
Pound
Pound
ONII-SAMA, OPEN THE DOOR!
Bang
Bang
Bang
DID YOU LOCK HER UP?
YES.
ONII-SAMA!

CHICHIJIE,
WHY DID YOU—
THAT'S MINAMOTO NO YOSHITSUNE, ISN'T IT?
NO,
SHE'S MY WIFE, RYO.
DON'T LIE TO ME.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU BROUGHT SUCH A NUISANCE TO OUR VILLAGE?
MY WIFE IS NOT A NUISANCE.
THAT'S TOO HARSH, CHICHIJIE.
WIFE, YOU SAY?
ISN'T SHE YOUR MASTER?

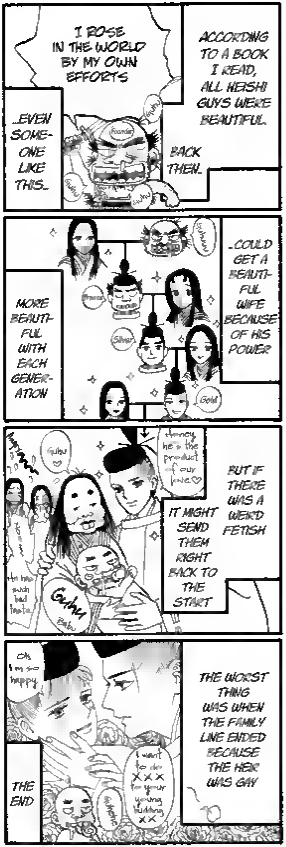

YES,
YOSHITSUNE IS MY MASTER,
BUT SHE IS ALSO MY BELOVED.

Uerin's 4-PANEL STRIP PART 2

Ultra Quiz Ryo

① REAKER'S ROSARY BEING MADE OUT OF CANDY
Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE MOST MACHOWAG ?
② REAKER'S ROSARY BEING MADE OUT OF HERBAL TABLETS
STINK
③ REAKER'S ROSARY BEING MADE OUT OF MINI BOMBS
...
BIP
3
2
I THINK THIS IS IT!
THE CORRECT ANSWER IS #3 --
BECAUSE HE COULD DIE!
Ultra Quiz
R

Guhu Guhu


I ROSE IN THE WORLD BY MY OWN EFFORTS
...EVEN SOME-ONE LIKE THIS...
ACCORDING TO A BOOK I READ, ALL HEISHI GUYS WERE BEAUTIFUL.
BACK THEN.
MORE BEAUTI-FUL WITH EACH GENERA-TION
...COULD GET A BEAUTI-FUL WIFE BECAUSE OF HIS POWER
Silver
Gold
...honey, he's the product of our love♡
BUT IF THERE WAS A WEIRD FETISH
IT MIGHT SEND THEM RIGHT BACK TO THE START
Guhu!
OH, I'm so happy
I want to die XXX for your XXXXX XX
THE WORST THING WAS WHEN THE FAMILY LINE ENDED BECAUSE THE HEIR WAS GAY
THE END

4-PANEL STRIP (THE END)

R-Jo
No.32

Yes,
Yoshitsune
is my
master,
but
she is
also my
beloved.
Heh
heh

I AM AWARE OF OUR DIFFERENT STATIONS.
NO.
ALTHOUGH YOSHITSUNE-DONO HAS FALLEN LOW, SHE IS STILL A GENJI HEIR.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF A MERE MOUNTAIN PRIEST LIKE YOU BEING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE HER?
Hahahaha
I WILL GIVE HER TO HER FIANCÉ, KOREMORI-DONO.

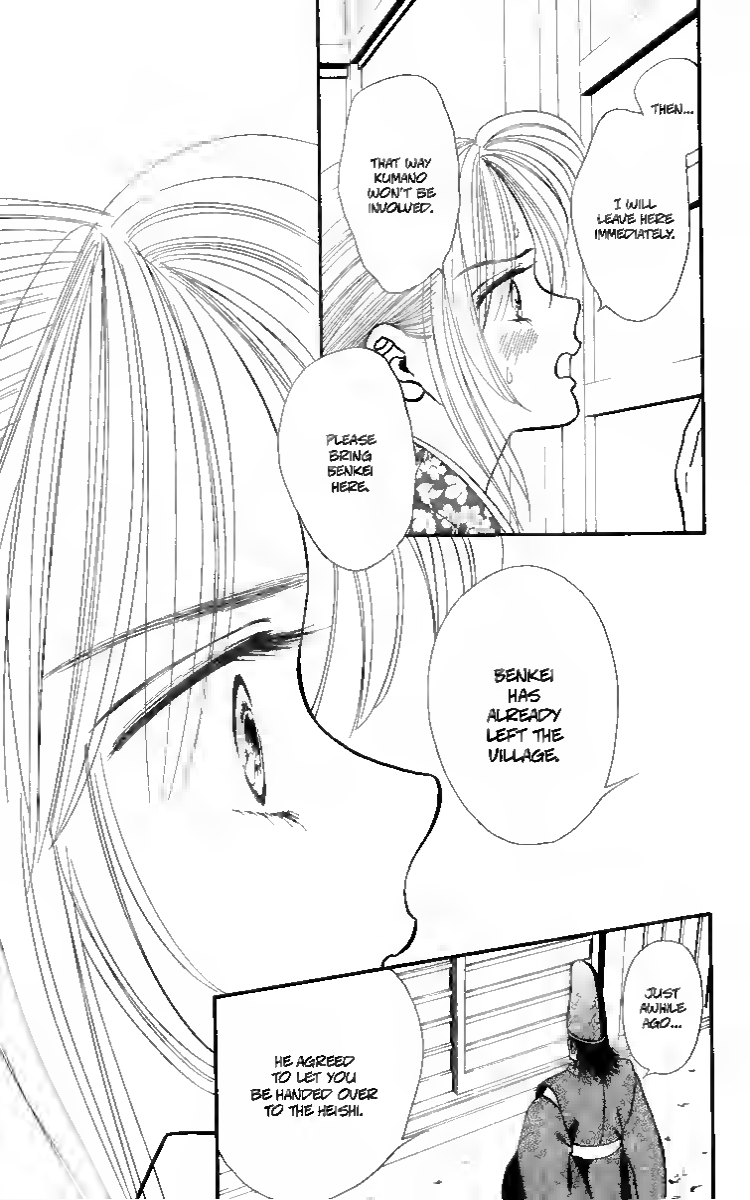
IN THAT CASE, I WILL HAVE TO PREVENT YOU.
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS...
AND YOU HAVEN'T GROWN UP AT ALL.
Tap
CHICHI-UE, EXCUSE ME NOW!
Grab
ANICUE. DON'T TRY TO STOP ME.
!!

MMPH...
UNGH...
YOU HAVE NEVER LEARNED WHEN TO GIVE UP.
ONLY YOUR BODY HAS GROWN
...
BAM
THUD

Thud
URGH.
TAP TAP TAP TAP
BAM
Pant Pant
Pant Pant
Creak
Step Step Step
BENKEI!
POUND POUND
BENKEI HELP!
I'M IN HERE!
YOSHITSUNE-DONO.

I AM TANZOU, THE STEWARD OF KUMANO.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO.
ONCE THE MESSENGER FROM THE HEISHI ARRIVES,
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE CAPITAL WITH HIM.
!!

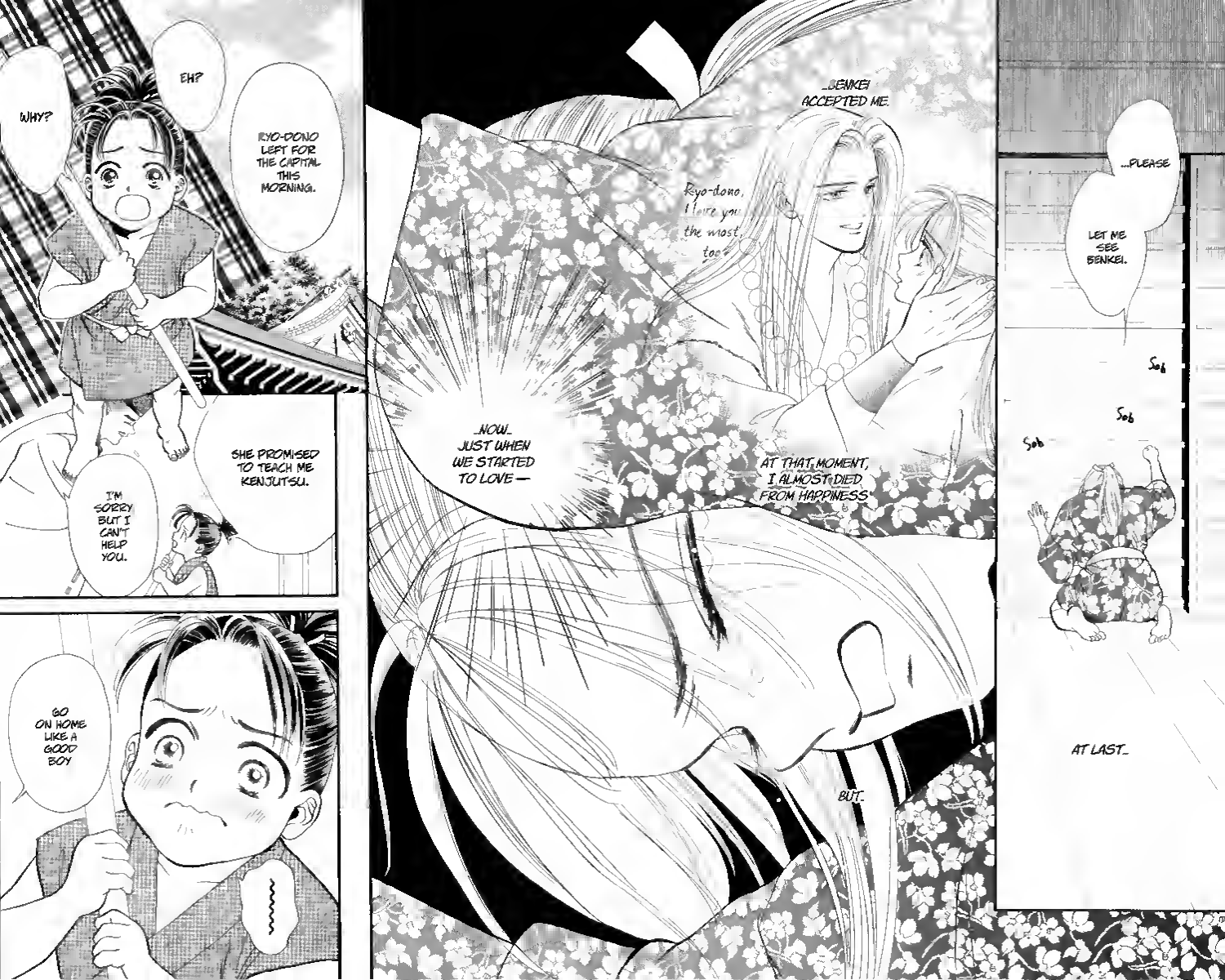
NO!
I CAN'T GO TO THE HEISHI
PLEASE DON'T GET KUMANO INVOLVED.
WE ARE ALLIED WITH THE HEISHI, BUT IF WE WERE TO HIDE YOU FROM THEM,
THEY WOULD ATTACK US.
ALL THE VILLAGERS COULD GET KILLED.


JUST AWHILE AGO...
HE AGREED TO LET YOU BE HANDED OVER TO THE HEISHI.
BENKEI HAS ALREADY LEFT THE VILLAGE.
PLEASE BRING BENKEI HERE.
THAT WAY KUMANO WON'T BE INVOLVED.
THEN...
I WILL LEAVE HERE IMMEDIATELY.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.
HE'D NEVER ABANDON ME.
IS YOUR WISH JUST ONE PERSON'S WISH
WORTH MORE THAN ALL THE LIVES OF THE VILLAGERS?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU SHOULD REALIZE WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT.

POUND
POUND
PLEASE!
LET ME OUT!
BANG
LET ME OUT!
GIVE UP, YOSHITSUNE DONO.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE, I CAN'T LET YOU OUT.
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP!
BAM
BANG
NEVER!
Step
Step
OTOU-SAMA!
BANG
PLEASE, UNLOCK THE DOOR.
I'LL DO ANYTHING, BUT PLEASE...
BAM

*Otou = father


EH?
WHY?
RYO-DONO LEFT FOR THE CAPITAL THIS MORNING.
SHE PROMISED TO TEACH ME KENJUTSU.
I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU.
GO ON HOME LIKE A GOOD BOY
...BENKEI ACCEPTED ME.
Ryo-dono, I love you the most, too.
...NOW... JUST WHEN WE STARTED TO LOVE —
AT THAT MOMENT, I ALMOST DIED FROM HAPPINESS.
BUT...
...PLEASE LET ME SEE BENKEI.
Sob
Sob
Sob
AT LAST...

WAAHH
WAAH!
TO MAKE ME STRONG.
SHE PROMISED..
RYO-SAN WOULDN'T LIE.
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT THERE MUST BE A REASON.
THEN WHY...?
HUH?
...
CHICHIUE IS PRAYING IN THE SHRINE RIGHT NOW.
I WILL WAIT UNTIL HE'S DONE THEN.
MEANWHILE
UH... MOM...
WHAT? BATH-ROOM?
NO.
SASU-ROU?
I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE!
DASH

?
Stunned
PLEASE GO INSIDE AND WAIT.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY SABUROU!
ZOOOOM
DON'T GO THAT WAY!
I'M SCARED..
Hey!
Stunned
OF TANZOU-SAMA'S FACE.
Thump Thump
RUN
RUN
RUN
THIS SHRINE IS SO BIG YOU MIGHT GET LOST.
Grab
YOU SHOULD WAIT WITH YOUR MOTHER.
Eek

GENJI?
YES.
WE ARE KEEPING YOSHITSUNE-DONO HERE UNTIL THE HEISHI SEND SOMEONE FOR HER.
WE WANT IT KEPT SECRET THAT WE ARE GIVING HER TO THE HEISHI.
SO PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE SHE IS HERE IN KUMANO
EEE...
Shake Shake Shake
SABUROU
WAAAA
SABUROU, YOU, TOO.
Tsuka
YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT TO SABUROU LATER.
TANZOU-SAMA...
PLEASE LET RYO-SAN AND BENKEI GO!

Translation: ^_^ Tonpopo
Scans: Ink
Editing: Vgsonnds & Ink
Proofreading: Conner

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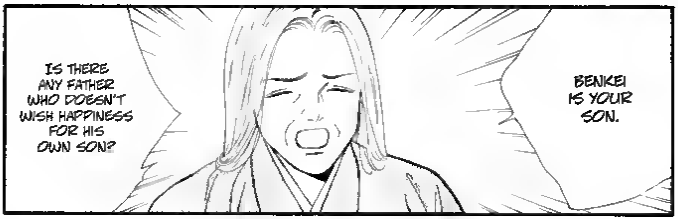
IT'S JUST A MOMENTARY PASSION.
YOU SHOULDN'T—
THEY ARE REALLY IN LOVE.


IS THERE ANY FATHER WHO DOESN'T WISH HAPPINESS FOR HIS OWN SON?
BENKEI IS YOUR SON.

ALTHOUGH I AM BENKEI'S FATHER...
I AM ALSO THE LEADER OF KUMANO

"Ryo-dono left for the capital this morning."
Sneak
Huff
Huff
Dash
THAT PRIEST IS HIDING RYO NEE-CHAN
Glance
Glance
Sshhh
HIDE
WHOA!
Thump
Thump
Thump

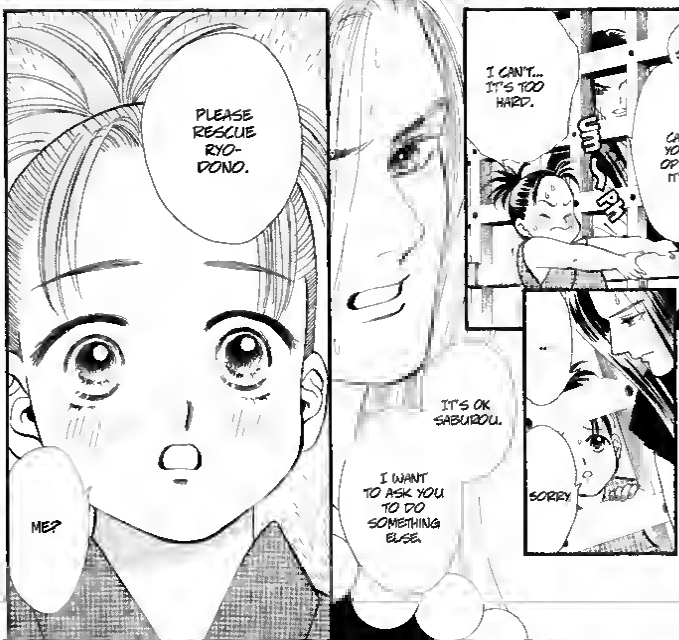
ARE YOU AWAKE, BENKEI?
I BROUGHT YOU FOOD.
I DON'T WANT FOOD WITH HERBS THAT MAKE ME NUMB.
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
CHICHIUE ISN'T DOING THIS BECAUSE HE HATES YOU.
HE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT YOU—
SO YOU'LL JUST KEEP ME HERE UNTIL I DIE?
BECAUSE IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE...
YOUR LIVES WILL BE IN DANGER.
Chill

IT'S SO BIG.
Shiver Shiver
DARK...
AND COLD.
I'M LOST.
URGH——
Whine
WHOA!
BOATS!

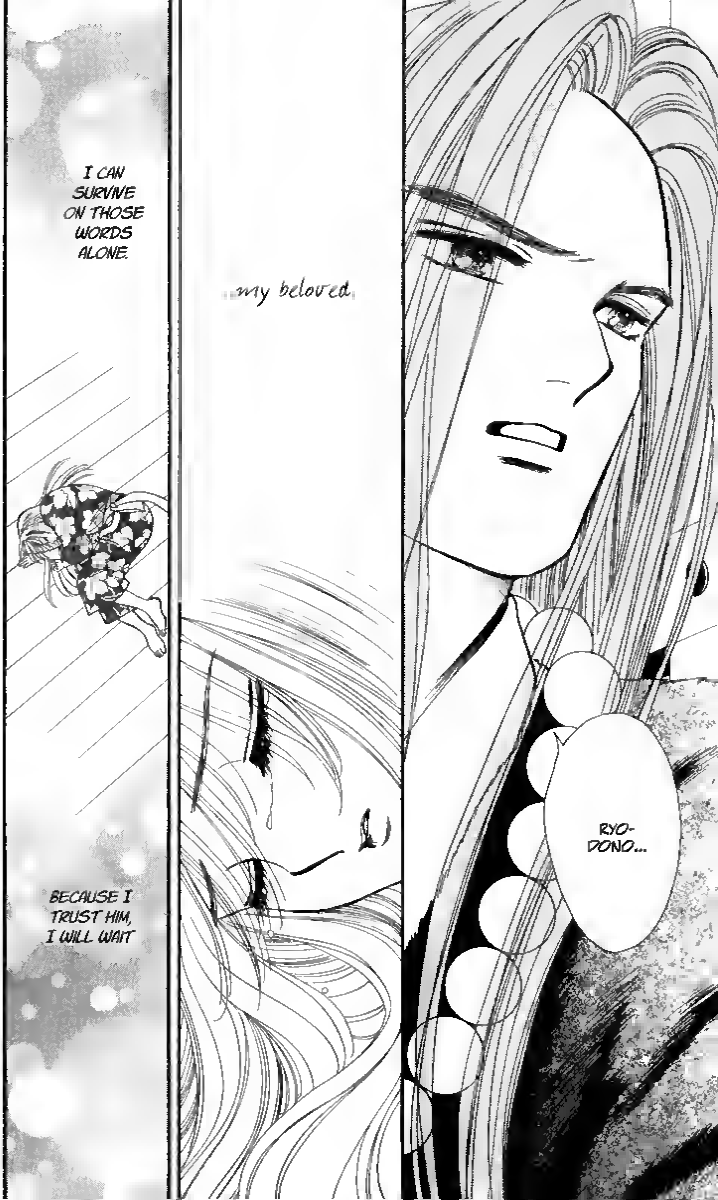
Splat
Crush
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A STORY.
IT'S TRUE THAT KUMANO HAS A NAVY!
Wow
ARE YOU RYO NEE-CHAN?
RYO ONEE-CHAN?
WHO ARE YOU?
SABUROU
Collar
Dazzy
YIKES!
EYAA!
WAIT!
HEY

AREN'T YOU RYO NEE-CHAN'S HUSBAND?
SHIT.
I'M STILL NUMB.

THEY PUT ME IN HERE TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM RYO-DONO.
WHY ARE YOU IN JAIL?

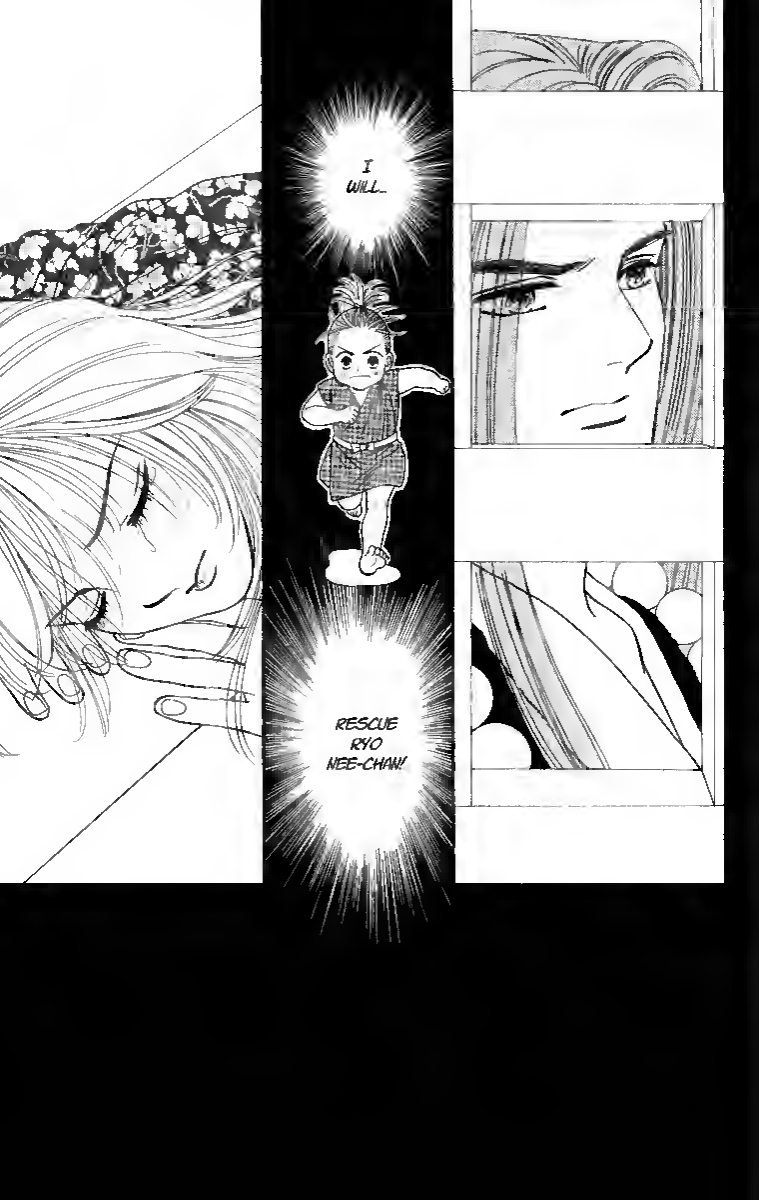

PLEASE RESCUE RYO-DONO.
ME?
I CAN'T... IT'S TOO HARD.
SABUROU.
CAN YOU OPEN IT?
IT'S OK SABUROU.
I WANT TO ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING ELSE.
SORRY

SO YOU CAN GO IN AND—
NO ONE WILL BE THERE DURING THE PRAYERS.
BUT...
YOU CAN!
BUT I CAN'T
SHE'S LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE AT THE SHRINE.
I THINK I KNOW WHERE.
RYO-DONO...
MUST BE IN A DARK, COLD JAIL RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S PROBABLY CRYING FOR HELP.
RYO ONEE-CHAN?

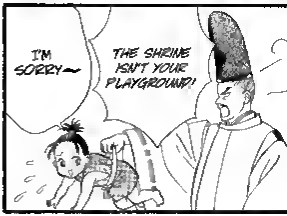

I CAN SURVIVE ON THOSE WORDS ALONE.
...my beloved.
RYO-DONO...
BECAUSE I TRUST HIM, I WILL WAIT

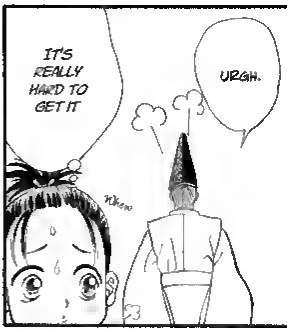
BATHED IN LIGHT...
...BENKEI WILL SAY THOSE WORDS TO ME AGAIN
I BELIEVE THAT

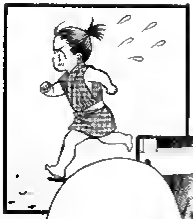
リョウ
Ryo
No.33

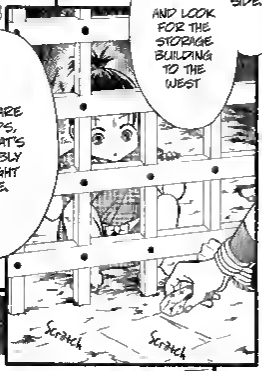

I WILL...
RESCUE RYO NEE-CHAN!

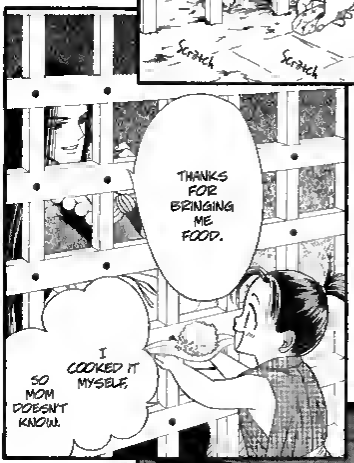
HEY!
SABUROU, AGAIN?

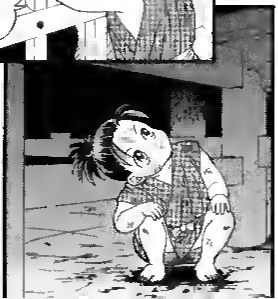

I'M SORRY~
THE SHRINE ISN'T YOUR PLAYGROUND!


IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET IT
URGH.
YOKARO



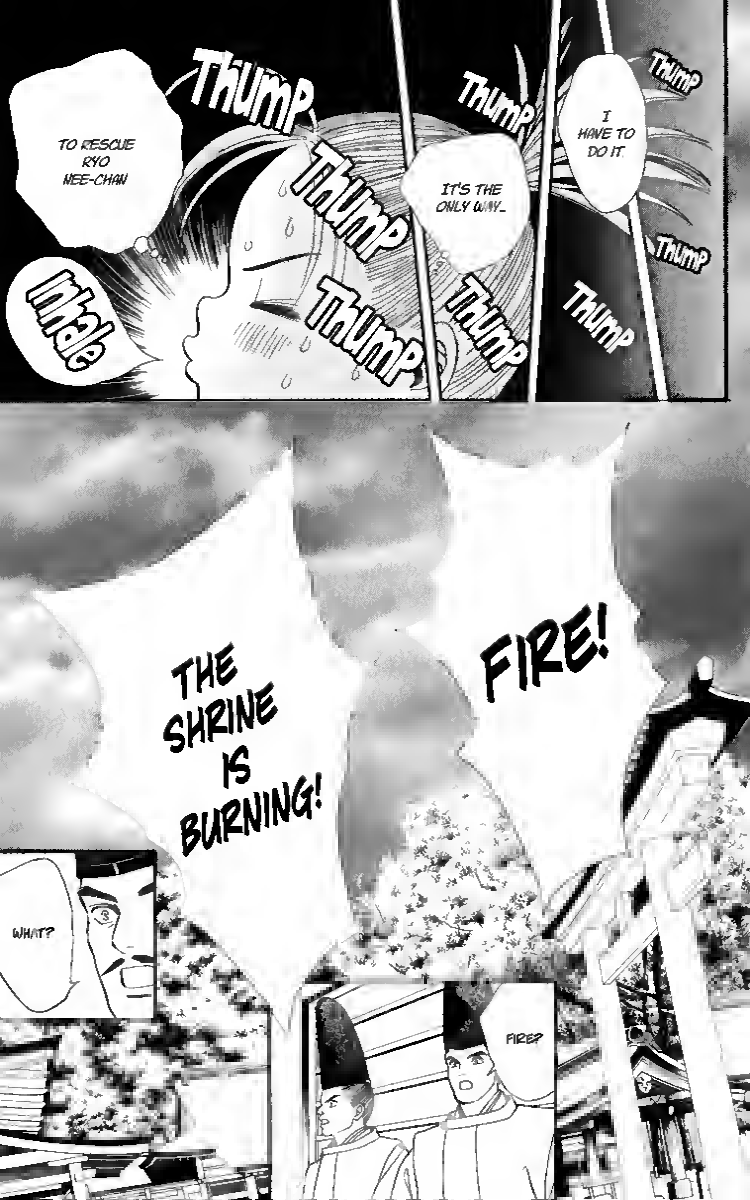

GO TO THE BUILDING ON THE EASTERN SIDE.
AND LOOK FOR THE STORAGE BUILDING TO THE WEST
IF THERE ARE GUARDS, THEN THAT'S PROBABLY THE RIGHT PLACE.
Scratch
Scratch


THANKS FOR BRINGING ME FOOD.
I COOKED IT MYSELF, SO MOM DOESN'T KNOW.



Pant+
Pant+
Pant+
What should I do once I rescue Ryo nee-chan?
Can I go with you?
Come back here without being seen. We can escape by boat
If your mother lets you
THERE ARE GUARDS.
IT MUST BE THIS PLACE.
HOW CAN I GET HER OUT?
BUT THOSE ARE SUCH BIG GUYS...

KORE-MORI-SAMA...
KUMANO IS IN SIGHT
I CAN FINALLY SEE KYO AGAIN.
FINALLY!
REALLY?
THE CHASE IS ALMOST OVER...
KOREMORI-SAMA.


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
TO RESCUE RYO NEE-CHAN
IT'S THE ONLY WAY...
I HAVE TO DO IT
Inhale
THE SHRINE IS BURNING!
FIRE!
WHAT?
FIRE?

WATER!
WATER!
DASH!
YEAH YOU'RE RIGHT
HEY
YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR POST.
IF THE SHRINE BURNS DOWN MY FAMILY WILL BE CURSED FOR GENERATIONS.
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
Whoa!
Whoa!
SLIDE
RYO NEE-CHAN!
SABUROU!
Thud
I WONDER IF BENKEI IS—
Creak

RYO NEE-CHAN..
PANT
PANT
SABUROU.
DID YOU COME HERE ALONE?
THANK YOU.
HURRY.
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.
YES...
I DON'T SEE A FIRE ANYWHERE.
NO SMOKE, EITHER.
STIR
DAMN!

Step
Step
IT'S AN ANIMAL PATH, BUT IT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET TO THE OCEAN
Pant Pant
THIS WAY!
Pit
RAIN
NOT NOW!
!?
HE'S BEEN DRUGGED, SO HE CAN'T MOVE.
DRUGGED?
SABUROU, IS HEIKEI WAITING AT THE SECRET HARBOR?
NO, HE'S IN THE JAIL ON THE BEACH.

WHOOSH
SLIDE
SSHHHH
HOLD ON!
BENKEI!
IYO NEE-CHAN!
WHOA!
BENKEI!
BENKEI!
BENKEI!
Hah!

Step
Step
Step
Step
A DREAM...
Step

BENKEI...
PANT
PANT PANT
PANT
THUNK
RYO-DONO!

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
OH, BENKEI...
ME, TOO.

Blush
AH...
EXCUSE ME.
WE REALLY NEED TO GO.
YEAH.
I SEE.
THIS IS IT. THE SECRET HARBOR
Gulp
ARE YOU OK, BENKEI?
YES.
Pat
Pat
DAY IN,
DAY OUT...
I THOUGHT ONLY OF YOU.

SWOOSH
SPLASH
IT WASN'T LIKE THIS JUST AWHILE AGO.
IT'S A STORM.
BUT WE HAVE TO GO NOW!
GOING TO SEA IN THIS STORM WOULD BE SUICIDE.
NO.
THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
...

WE'RE TOO LATE.
DID BENKEI RESCUE YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO?
NO.
HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE YET.
WHOOM
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SAIL IN THIS WEATHER.
SO WHERE ARE THEY?
DON'T PANIC. I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHERE THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE.

THIS WON'T TASTE GOOD WITH THE HERBAL MEDICINE IN IT, BUT IT SHOULD WORK.
THANK YOU, HAHAUE.
Wa-aaaaa
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU ANYWAY.
I'M VERY SORRY WE GOT SABUROU INVOLVED AND HAD TO ASK YOU TO HIDE US.
HOW CAN A FATHER POISON HIS OWN SON?
MOM. MOM..
CAN I GO TO THE OUSHUU LANDS WITH RYO NEE-CHAN?
I GUESS THIS RAIN IS THE GOD'S WAY OF TELLING YOU NOT TO SAIL UNTIL YOU'RE WELL.
THE EFFECTS ARE ALMOST GONE.
BUT YOU CAN'T MOVE NORMALLY YET.
Don't try too hard.

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Translation ^_^Tanpopo
Scans & edits Ink
Proofreading Conner

WHAT?
SABUROU...
I THINK I CAN GET STRONGER...
IF I GO WITH RYO NEE-CHAN
AND WHEN I'M STRONGER, I CAN BUILD A HOUSE FOR YOU.
NO!
DO YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS A JOURNEY LIKE THAT WOULD BE?
YOU MIGHT DIE!
BUT I—
I SAID NO!
YOU'RE JUST A CHILD. YOU'D BE A NUISANCE FOR THEM.
A NUI-SANCE?
BECAUSE I'M A KID?
BECAUSE I'M WEAK?
IT'S NOT THAT, SABUROU.

IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A STRONG HEART...
THAN A STRONG BODY.
Sob
Sob
STRONG HEART?
YES. NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS...
OR HOW SAD YOU ARE...
Sob Sob
YOU CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING IF YOU HAVE STRENGTH IN YOUR HEART.
A HEART...
...THAT WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON ITS CHOSEN PATH.

MOM!
I WONDER IF THE RIVER WILL FLOOD.
IT'S BEEN RAINING FOR THREE DAYS.
SSH
Flow
THERE'S WATER COMING INTO THE HOUSE.
...
EH?
SABUROU
PUT THIS ON YOUR HEAD
WHOO

MOM?
WE'RE GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN.
THIS HOUSE MIGHT BE FLOODED.
RYO-SAN PUT ONE ON TOO.
BUT...
WE ARE—
HAHALIE,
WE'LL GO TO THE EASTERN HILL.
BENKEI.
Sssh
WE CAN'T GO TO THE SHRINE WHERE EVERYBODY ELSE IS GOING
WE'LL WAIT UNTIL THE WEATHER CLEARS..
AND THEN—
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
Splash
Splash
Let's get out of here

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT THERE WAS A LANDSLIDE ON THE EASTERN HILL DURING A FLOOD SEVEN YEARS AGO.
DOZENS OF PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE OF IT
BUT WE CAN'T GO TO THE SHRINE.
THE WHOLE VILLAGE WILL BE THERE. NO ONE WILL NOTICE YOU'RE THERE, TOO.
...
WH
OOO

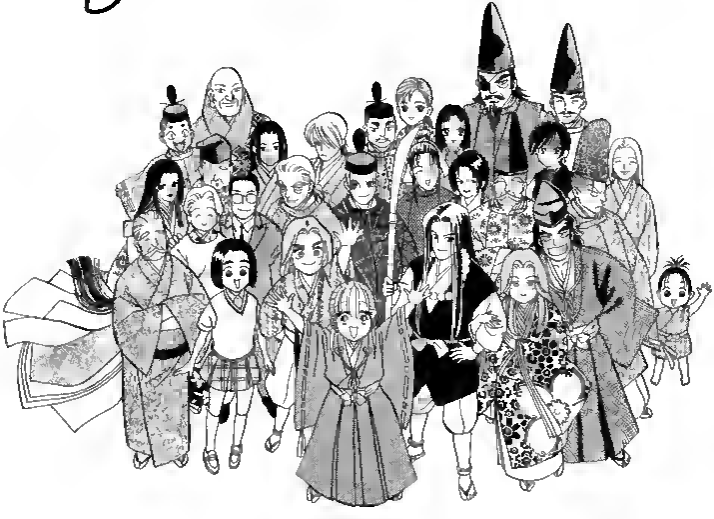
I'VE NEVER SEEN A FLOOD LIKE THIS.
HURRY, RYO-DONO.
YEAH.
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE SHRINE STEPS.
WHOOSH
AAAHH!
MY SON!

MY BOY!
Emerge
Splash
Splash
LET ME GO!
MY BOY!
YOU'LL DIE, TOO!
DON'T!
NoOOoo!
BENKEI..
EVERYONE, HURRY TO THE SHRINE.
PULL
BENKEI?
THE RIVER IS TOO SWIFT.
TANZOU-SAMA, THERE'S TROUBLE.

WHAT'S WRONG?
MY SON— HE FELL INTO THE RIVER!
My boy!
YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP!
HURRY TO THE SHRINE!
Yank
Splash
Splash
FLAP
!!
Wahhh
RYO-DONO!

RYO-
DONO!
PLOF
I'LL
NEVER
GIVE
UP!
!!
IT WOULDN'T
BE ME
IF I
GAVE UP!
RYO-
DONO!

See you in volume 6



リョウ
Ryo
No.34

WHOOOO
RYO NEE-CHAN!
YOSHITSUNE-DONO?
IS THAT...
!!
FWIP
HANAJI, TAKE SABUROU.

DIVE
BENKEI! NO!
Splash
Bubble
!!
Splash
HE SANK!

Breathe
WHOOSH
NO!
I CAN'T AVOID IT!

SHHHH

...
...
...
WAKE UP!
DONO
...NEE-CHAN
DIED.
HE...
HOW IS THE BOY?
...
Ryo
RYO NEE-CHAN, YOU'RE ALIVE!
SABU-ROU...

BY JUMPING INTO THE FLOOD WATERS LIKE THAT...
HE WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN WE PULLED YOU OUT OF THE WATER.
YOU ALMOST DIED, TOO.
UHH...
YES, CHICHI-UE.
KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.
NOT NOW.
CHICHI-UE.

IF ONLY I HADN'T HESITATED...
I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM
RYO-DONO...
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.
YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD.
JUST GET SOME REST FOR NOW.
WE CAN THINK OF THE FUTURE LATER.
SNIF
THERE ARE OTHER ROOMS
YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE. FIND SOME-WHERE ELSE.
WE WERE TOLD TO COME TO THIS ROOM
ALL THE OTHER ROOMS ARE FULL NOW...
PLEASE LET US IN WE HAVE A SICK PERSON WITH US
TANKEN-SAMA, LET THEM IN, PLEASE.
WE WON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY IN THIS STORM

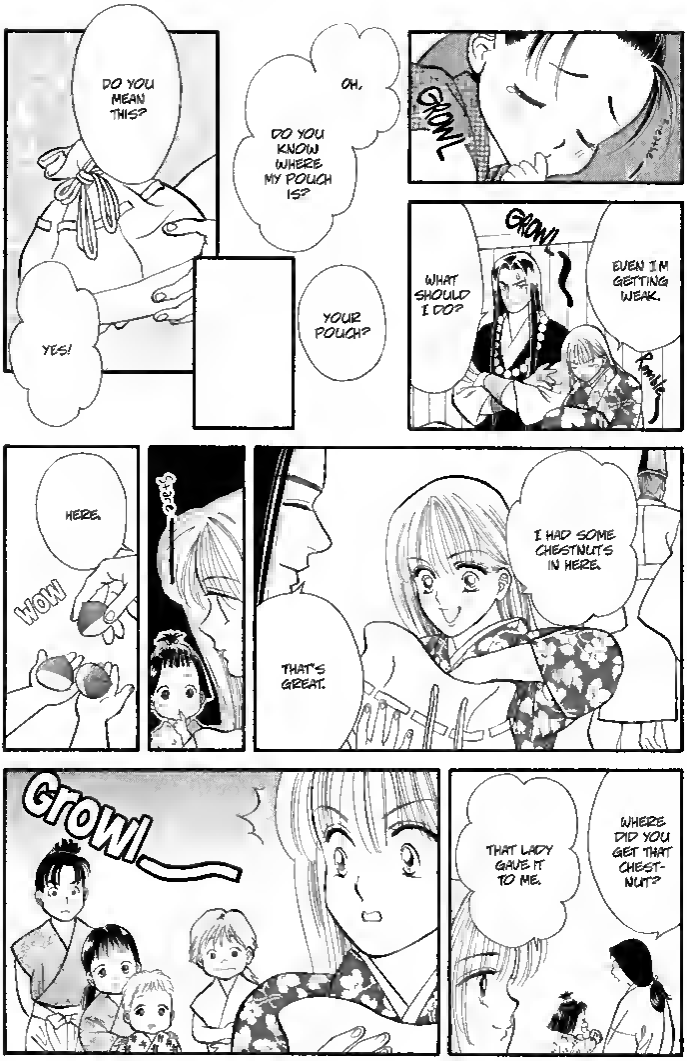
CROWD
THANK YOU!
WE CAN FINALLY LIE DOWN.
HANG IN THERE. YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE NOW.
TWENTY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DIED IN THIS RAIN.
OUR HOUSE AND FARM WERE WASHED AWAY. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

I'LL GO GET SOME FOR ALL OF US.
HURRY!
IT WILL BE GONE IF WE DON'T GO NOW
Waah
THEY ARE DISTRIBUTING FOOD IN ONE OF THE ROOMS.
GET IN LINE
DON'T CROWD
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH, SO ONLY ONE PER PERSON
RYO-DONO...
OBA-SAN...
I'LL GO.
LADIES,
WOULD YOU HELP US WITH THE COOKING?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS THE RAIN LESSENS.

Rustle
IN THIS CHAOS IT WILL BE EASY—
NO!
RYO-DONO?
Step Step
YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO
PLEASE LET ME HELP WITH THE COOKING
HUH?
THE OTHERS CAN DO IT
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE, DO YOU?
I WON'T RUN AWAY
RYO-DONO!
I CAN'T TRUST YOU.
I CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF HERE, ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I SAID I WON'T RUN AWAY!
LET'S GO BACK, RYO-DONO.

YOU SHOULD GET SOME MORE REST.
I'M FINE!
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE DOING NOTHING
IT'S THE VILLAGE YOU GREW UP IN.
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH.
BUT IT'S YOUR HOMETOWN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS VILLAGE.
RYO NEE-CHAN...
GRON...
I COULDN'T GET THE FOOD.
Rumble Rumble
IT'S OK. YOUR MOTHER WILL BRING SOME LATER.
UHHH...
Cry

JUST HANG IN THERE. EVERYONE IS HUNGRY.
HE'S ONLY HAD ONE RICE BALL IN THE LAST TWO DAYS.
GRUMP
SHHH
I'M HUNGRY.
There, there.
WAAAH
DADDY, I'M HUNGRY.
I TOLD YOU WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD!
WAAAA
I WANT SOMETHING TO EAT!
SHUT UP!
I HEARD THE RICE SUPPLY IN THE SHRINE IS NEARLY GONE.
MORE PEOPLE ARE GETTING SICK.
SIGH
IT'S LIKE HELL.
EVERYONE IS HUNGRY AND IRRITABLE.
WAAAH



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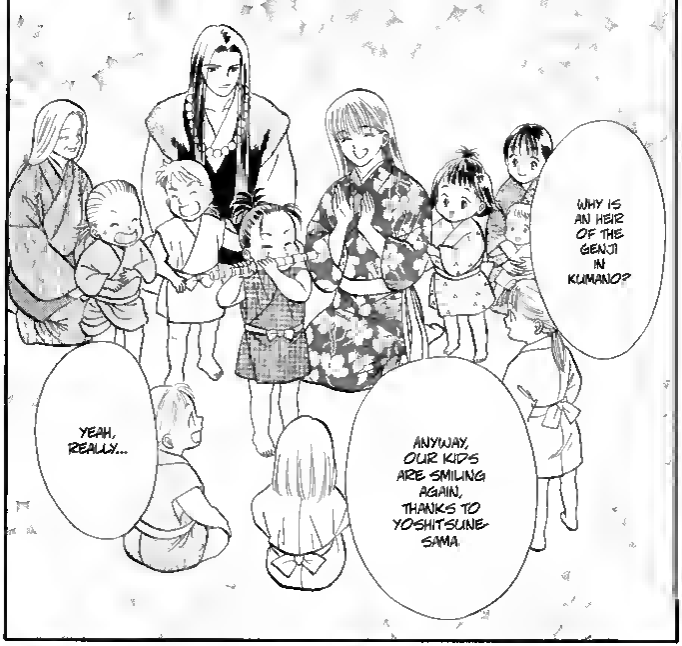
Translation ^_^ Tanpopo
Scans & edits Ink
Proofreading Conner

Rummage
HMM..
AH-HAH!
I FOUND SOMETHING NICE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SORRY SABUROU.
I GAVE THEM ALL TO THOSE KIDS.
Growl
Yay
YAY A CHESTNUT!
THANK YOU.
IT WAS A GIFT FROM HOUOU-SAMA.
HOUOU-SAMA?
I CAN GIVE YOU THIS
NO, HE CAN'T ACCEPT SUCH A VALUABLE GIFT.
IT'S FINE.
WATCH CAREFULLY WHILE I PLAY IT.
A FLUTE.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN ONE BEFORE?
WHAT IS IT?
FLUTE?

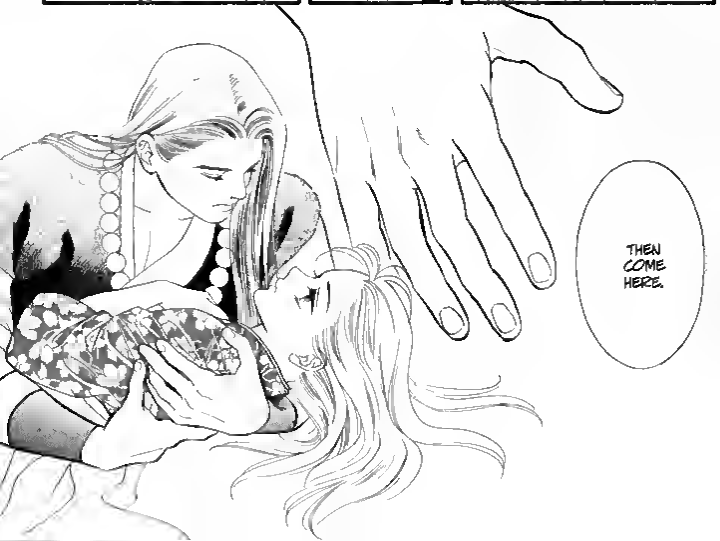
WHO?
WHO'S PLAYING A FLUTE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FLUTE.
BEAUTIFUL.
IT ACTUALLY MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.

Blow
OK
I WANT TO PLAY.
Buun Suihin
I HAVEN'T PLAYED SINCE I LEARNED IN KURAMA.
I'M STILL NOT VERY GOOD.
Wahahaha
YOU'LL BE BETTER ONCE YOU GET SOME PRACTICE.
Nice job!
Good luck!
I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THAT GIRL BEFORE.
PUT YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS.
Wow...
THAT'S MINAMOTO NO YOSHITSUNE-SAMA?
OH YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER?
SHE'S THE GENJI HEIR BENKEI SERVES.
YEAH!
DO YOU WANT TO TRY?


WHY IS AN HEIR OF THE GENJI IN KUMANO?
ANYWAY, OUR KIDS ARE SMILING AGAIN, THANKS TO YOSHITSUNE-SAMA.
YEAH, REALLY...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MY FATHER IS THINKING.
EH?
THEY AREN'T WATCHING US CLOSELY ANYMORE.
AND WHY HASN'T HE SEPARATED US?

EVEN IN THIS STORM, WE CAN EASILY RUN AWAY.
Achoo!
ARE YOU CATCHING A COLD?
NO.
WE SHOULD GET YOUR BLANKET BACK.
I'M OK.
THE SICK PEOPLE NEED THE BLANKETS MORE.


THEN COME HERE.

IT'S WARM
HOW STRANGE.
EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I FEEL SO SECURE...
...BECAUSE I'M IN BENKEI'S ARMS,
I GUESS.
THERE'S A STORM OUTSIDE.

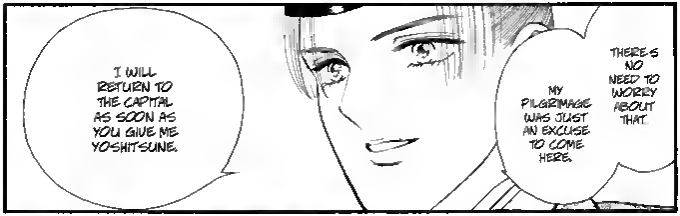
...THE FLOOR IS HARD AND COLD AS ICE...
...BUT I FEEL WARM.
...FULFILLED...
...AND FULFILLING.

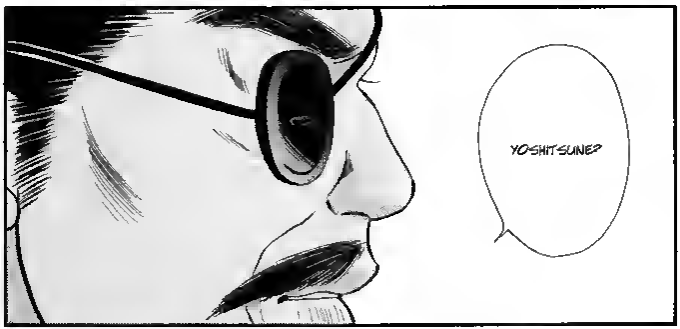
YAy
DON'T RUSH!
GO OUT SLOWLY.
THE SUN!
THE RAIN HAS STOPPED!
RYO-SAN,
NOW IS THE TIME IF YOU WANT TO ESCAPE.
YEAH...
ARE YOU GOING?
I KNOW WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
DON'T CRY.
RYO-DONO, LET'S—
YOU TWO ARE STAYING HERE.

WAAAAH
YOSHITSUNE-DONO AND BENKEI...
PLEASE DO AS CHICHIUE ASKS.

WHAT A SURPRISE.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE STEWARD OF KUMANO TO GREET ME HIMSELF.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE THREE DAYS AGO IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE STORM.
YES, WE'RE IN CHAOS RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF THAT STORM
I'M SORRY WE CAN'T WELCOME YOU PROPERLY, KOREMORI-SAMA.


THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
MY PILGRIMAGE WAS JUST AN EXCUSE TO COME HERE.
I WILL RETURN TO THE CAPITAL AS SOON AS YOU GIVE ME YOSHITSUNE.


YOSHITSUNE?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOREMORI-DONO?
TANZOU-SAMA?
THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON IN KUMANO.
《To be continued》